SHONEN JUMP MANGA

vol. 4

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

NISEKOI

False Love

I used to really hate doing color illustrations, but these days I enjoy them. They still take me forever, though!

Naoshi Komi

NAOSHI KOMI was born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan, on March 28, 1986. His first serialized work in *Weekly Shonen Jump* was the series *Double Arts*. His current series, *Nisekoi*, is serialized in *Weekly Shonen Jump*.

NISEKOI:
False Love
VOLUME 4
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NISEKOI: FALSE LOVE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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NISEKOI

False Love

vol. 4: Making Sure

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

THE STORY THUS FAR

Raku Ichijo is an ordinary teen...who just happens to come from a family of yakuza! His most treasured item is a pendant he was given ten years ago by a girl whom he promised to meet again one day and marry.

When super-babe Chitoge Kirisaki transfers into Raku's class, it's clear from the get-go that they don't get along. Unfortunately, thanks to family circumstances, Raku and Chitoge are forced to pretend to be a couple—even at school! The ever-suspicious Claude sends his protégé, a feared assassin named Seishiro, to keep tabs on the couple. Seishiro is extremely hostile toward Raku at first, but begins to soften as she gets to know him.

When Seishiro reminds Chitoge of her first crush ten years ago, Chitoge begins searching for clues as to her crush's identity and finds an old key nestled in the diary she kept when she was little. A class trip with Raku and the rest of the gang interrupts her detective work, but leads to a shocking new discovery—Raku has a scar just like the boy in her diary! And why does Chitoge's key give Raku a weird sense of déjà vu? The false couple grows closer on the school trip, and by the end, they're finally on a first-name basis.

KOSAKI ONODERA

A girl Raku has a crush on. Beautiful and sweet, Kosaki has no shortage of admirers. She's a terrible cook but makes food that *looks* amazing.

CHITOGE KIRISAKI

A half-Japanese bombshell with stellar athletic abilities. Short-tempered and violent. Comes from a family of gangsters.

RAKU ICHIJO

A normal teen whose family happens to be yakuza. Cherishes a pendant given to him by a girl he met ten years ago. Has a crush on Kosaki.

CHITOGE'S FATHER

Leader of the Beehive, a gang with designs on the Shuei-Gumi's turf.

RAKU'S FATHER

Leader of the Shuei-Gumi, the yakuza syndicate at war with the Beehive.

RURI MIYAMOTO

Kosaki's best gal pal. Comes off as aloof, but is actually a devoted and highly intuitive friend.

SHU MAIKO

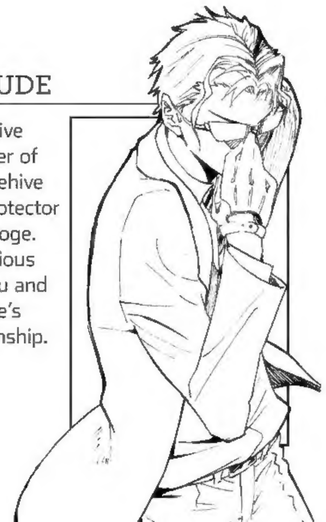
Raku's best friend. Outgoing and girl-crazy. Always tuned in to the latest gossip at school.

SEISHIRO TSUGUMI

Adopted by Claude as a young child and raised as a top-notch assassin, Seishiro is 100% devoted to Chitoge. But is there more to Chitoge's new bodyguard than meets the eye?

CLAUDE

Executive member of the Beehive and protector of Chitoge. Suspicious of Raku and Chitoge's relationship.



NISEKOI

False Love

vol. 4: Making Sure

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キーン
DIING
DOOONG
コーン

AFTER THE SCHOOL TRIP...

WE SWITCHED OVER...

...TO OUR SUMMER UNI-FORMS.

ざわ
CHATTER

Morn-ing!

CHATTER
ざわ

HURRY UP, TSUGUMI!

WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE!

W-WAIT! I'M COMING, MISTRESS!

Chapter 26: Love Letter

THERE'S SOME-THING IN MY SHOE LOCKER...

HEY...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, TSU-GUMI! LET'S GO!

HUH?

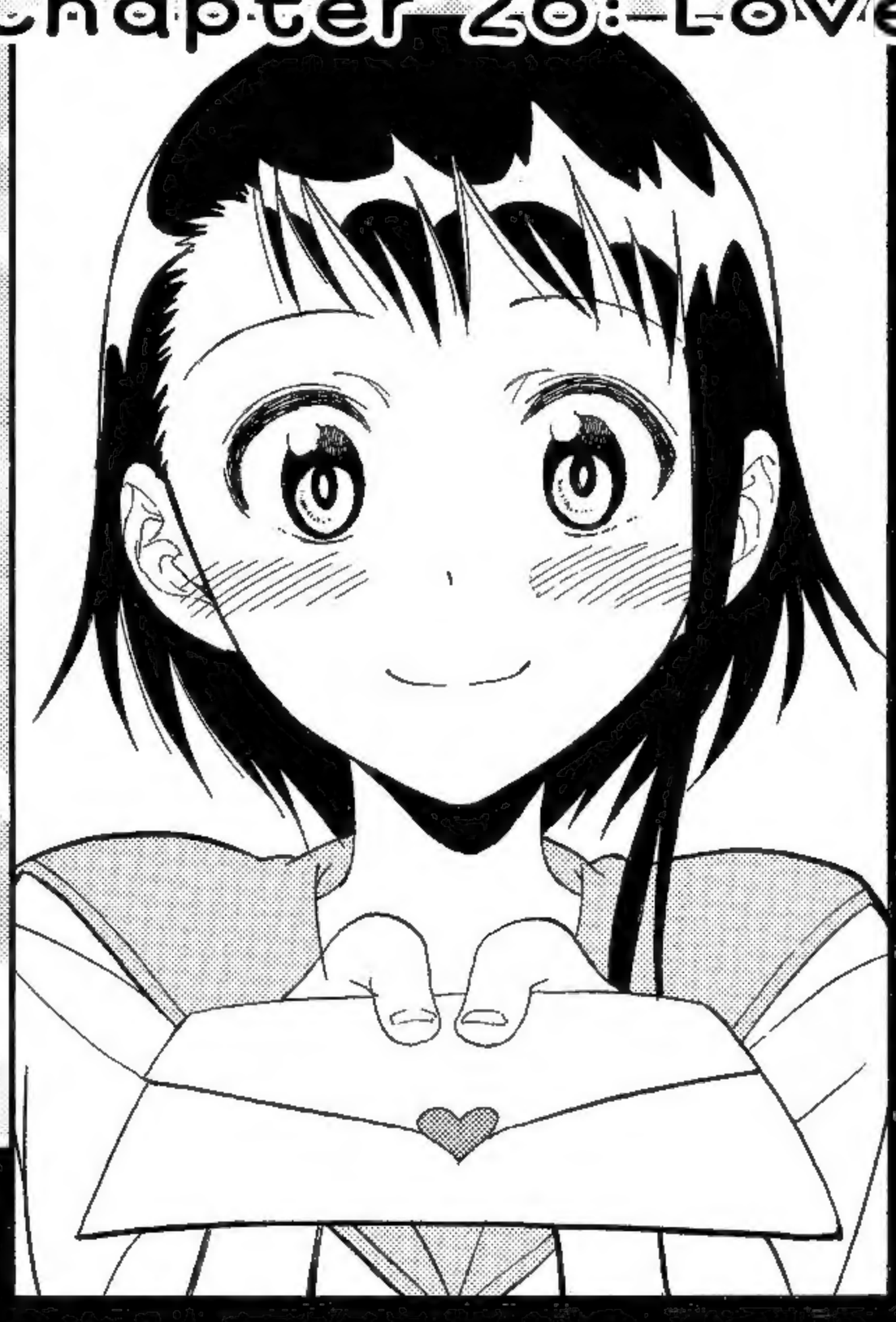
カチャ。
KCHAK

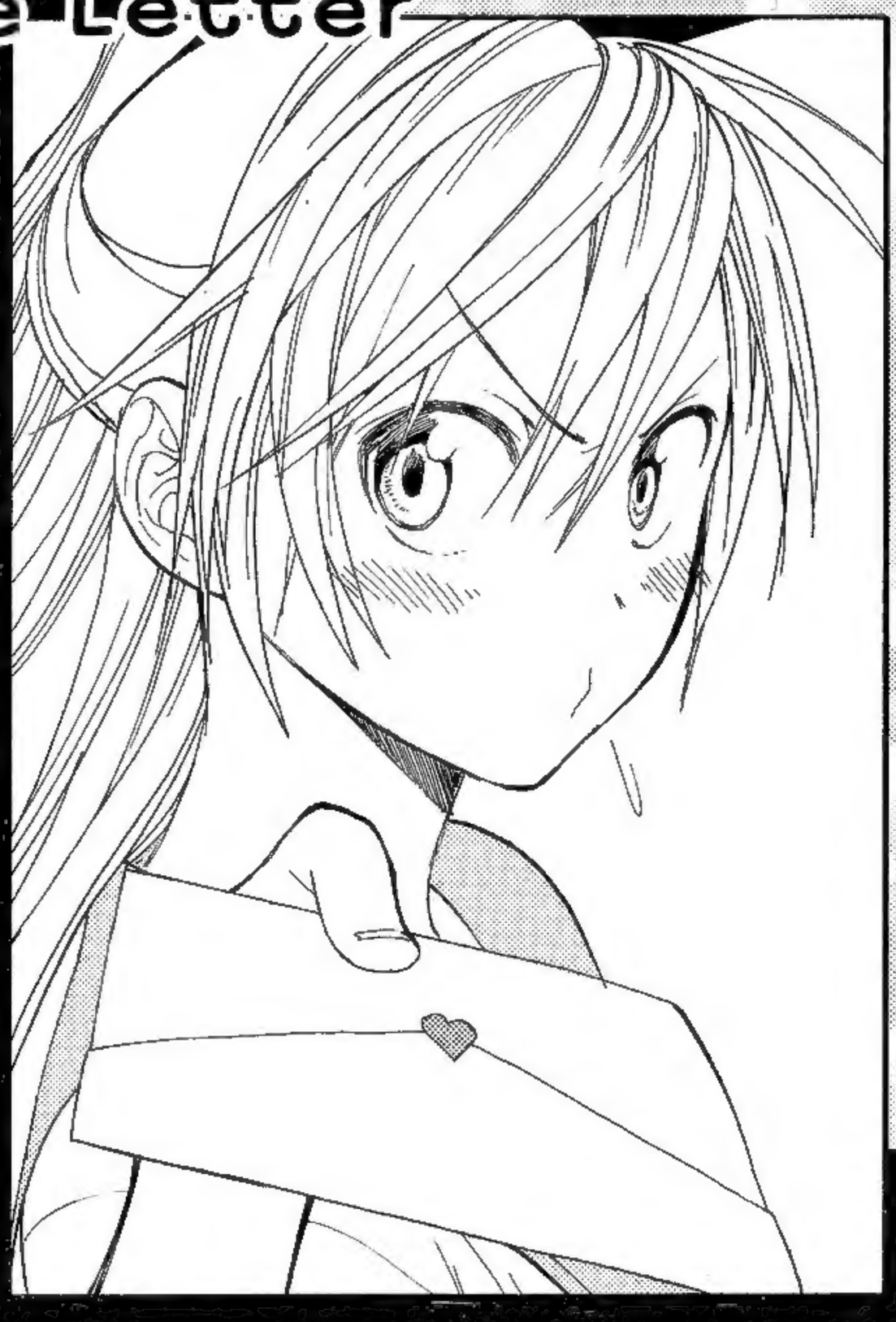
WHAT IS THIS?

To: Ms. Seishiro Tsugumi

To: Ms. Seishiro Tsugumi

Chapter 26: Love Letter





WOW!! A LOVE LETTER?!

LOTS OF DUDES HAVE THE HOTS FOR TSUGUMI!

WELL, DUH!

YEAH! TSUGUMI FOUND IT IN HER SHOE LOCKER THIS MORNING!

TH-THE HOTS?

AWE-SOME!!

AND HE'S GOOD-LOOKING. HE'S A TOTAL CHICK MAGNET.

I never figured him for the love-note type...

FOR REAL!? THE GUY ON THE SOCCER TEAM? HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SUPER SMART AND AN AMAZING ATHLETE!

SOME-ONE BY THE NAME OF TORU SUZUYA.

UM...

WHO'S IT FROM?

WELL?

DON'T WORRY, PAL. THERE'S NO WAY.

But I'll let you sweat it anyway. (Hee-hee)

DON'T TELL ME SHE HAS A CRUSH ON HIM?!

WAIT A SEC, ONODERA SEEMS TO THINK PRETTY HIGHLY OF THIS GUY.

THAT CREEPY JERK...

117

SNEER...

I get it. All the girls like him.

DUDE, YOU'RE SO STRAIGHT-FOR-WARD!

WELL, BEFORE WE GET TO THAT...

OH, UH...

Have you decided?

SO, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO RESPOND?

ズテ...

FWUMP...

WHAT'S A LOVE LETTER?

WHISPER WHISPER

こしょこしょ...

A LOVE LETTER IS...

WOW, NICE REACTION !!

HOW COULD HE HAVE A CRUSH ME? TH-THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!

W-WE'VE NEVER EVEN MET OR TALKED!!

W-W-WAIT A MINUTE... TH-THAT'S INSANE !!

あせ PANIC

あせ PANIC

オロ JIBBER

オロ JIBBER

So you have to reject him...

BUT WAIT... YOU ALREADY LIKE SOMEONE ELSE, RIGHT, TSU-GUMI?

WHA ...?!

RURI, DON'T LIE TO TSUGUMI!

Japanese society is more oppressive than I realized!

ゴン! THUNK

ダラダラ BLATHER

AND WHEN YOU GET A LOVE LETTER, YOU MUST COMPLY UNCONDI-TIONALLY WITH THE SENDER'S DEMANDS ?!

THINK IT OVER AND ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOU REALLY WANT.

YEAH.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW YOU FEEL.

HA HA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT!

You're one to talk!

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T LIKE ANY-BODY!

WE'RE BACK TO THIS AGAIN, ONO-DERA?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

ANY-WAY ...

Elec-tives.

What's the next class?

WHAT ON EARTH SHOULD I DO?

...REALLY WANT?

WHAT I...

I NEVER IMAGINED A GUY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ME.

I'VE NEVER GIVEN THIS SORT OF THING ANY THOUGHT.

HONEY? SHE'S EATING LUNCH WITH THE GIRLS.

THEY WERE LOOKING FOR YOU, TOO.

Shu was busy, so I'm done.

WHY AREN'T YOU WITH THE MISTRESS?!

WHA...?! RAKU ICHIJO!!

OH, HEY.

STILL AGO-NIZING OVER YOUR DECI-SION?

KCHAK

SH-SHUT UP!!

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS!

UH-OH...

IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US!

YOU SHOULD GIVE HIM AN ANSWER SOON.

I'M SURE HE'S WAIT-ING.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT ...

WAIT A SEC!

YOU'RE GOING TO EAT HERE WITH ME?!

Go away!

WELL, YEAH... IS THAT WEIRD?

...I GUESS SHE'S RIGHT.

WE WERE ENEMIES, COME TO THINK OF IT...

YES, IT IS!

I'VE JUST GOTTEN SO USED TO HER LATELY...

I'LL GET OUT OF YOUR HAIR.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

WAIT.

WHAT DOES "MY TYPE OF GUY" MEAN?

YOU PROBABLY HAVE A CERTAIN KIND OF GUY YOU TEND TO BE ATTRACTED TO, RIGHT?

IT MEANS WHAT KIND OF GUY YOU LIKE.

I'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT!!

O-OF COURSE NOT!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

IN THE LETTER, HE ASKED ABOUT MY TYPE.

WHAT'S YOUR TYPE OF GIRL?

W-WELL THEN...

LET'S SEE...MY TYPE OF GIRL...

IT'S NOT LIKE I LIKE HIM OR SOMETHING!

GAH! WHY AM I ASKING HIM ABOUT THIS?

HUH? I KNOW.

I MEAN... DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!

I DON'T REALLY CARE. I JUST WANT AN EXAMPLE!

I'M SUPPOSED TO PRETEND KIRISAKI'S MY TYPE!

WAIT !!

くしゅ...

MY DREAM GIRL WOULD HAVE SHORT, BLACK HAIR...

WELL ...

I GUESS THAT WOULD BE ONO-DERA...

WHAT?!

WHA...

...BUT ALSO KIND OF A SCAREDY-CAT...

... SUPER PHYSI-CALLY FIT...

SHE'D BE THE AGGRES-SIVE TYPE...

I MEAN ...

GO OUT WHERE WITH HIM?

WHAT DOES THIS PART MEAN: "WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?"

W-WELL THEN...

ブッ!! BLRFF

LUB DUB ドッキ

LUB DUB ドッキ

DID I HANDLE THAT OKAY?

I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT IT.

THAT SOUNDS JUST LIKE ME!!

LUB DUB バックン

NO WAY. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!

LUB DUB バックン

THAT'S HOW LOVE LETTERS WORK!

WHAT IS HE, NUTS?!

I'VE NEVER EVEN SPOKEN TO HIM!!

He's probably been watching you.

UM, HELLO?!

IT MEANS HE WANTS YOU TO BE HIS GIRL-FRIEND!!

WHAT?!

THAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!!

I HAVE TO...

...TALK TO HIM FACE-TO-FACE?

THEN JUST SAY NO.

But do it in person.

MY DUTY IS TO PROTECT MY MISTRESS!

...

I CAN'T BE HIS GIRL-FRIEND!

HE JUST FELL FOR YOU.

THAT'S ALL.

CAN'T I JUST NOT RESPOND?

WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO?

I MEAN, I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

I MEAN, WHY DOES HE EVEN LIKE ME?!

EVEN IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH IT...

...HE PROBABLY FELT LIKE HE HAD TO TELL YOU.

IT HAP-PENS.

PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE.

It takes guts to give a love letter!

HE WROTE YOU THAT LETTER BECAUSE HE REALLY LIKES YOU.

...WHETHER IT'S YES OR NO.

AT LEAST GIVE HIM AN ANSWER...

CRUMPLE...

THINK ABOUT...

...HOW HE FEELS.

...HOW WOULD YOU REACT?

IF I WROTE YOU A LOVE LETTER...

...

THEN ...

WOULD YOU FEEL GOOD?

OR BAD?

WHICH IS IT?

GAH! JUST ANSWER ME! ***NOW!!***

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THIS?!

HYPO-THETI-CALLY!

WHAT?! WHAT KIND OF QUESTION ...

WELL? HOW WOULD YOU RE-SPOND ?!

I GUESS I'D FEEL GOOD...

...

WELL...

KSHHH

IT HAPPENS.

PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE.

WHYYYYYY?!

KA-

SHUT UP, YOU STUPID MORON!!

-SLAM

ONE THING'S FOR SURE...

I DEFINITELY DON'T HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM!!

HMPH! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?

AT LEAST GIVE HIM AN ANSWER...

HII'Y...

SHP...

I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T COME!

HELLO, TSU-GUMI!

NOT EVEN ONE LITTLE BIT!

THAT JERK...

OH!

...AN ANSWER FOR ME?

DO YOU HAVE...

...

I'M SORRY...

...

...

NO!

OF COURSE NOT!

DO YOU LIKE SOMEONE ELSE?

I'M AFRAID ...

...I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU.

OH. ...

OKAY.

THANKS ANYWAY.

I GET IT.

Hey, quit it!

Arg! Stop shov-ing!

Y-y-yikes!

...THE RIGHT THING?

DID I DO...

M-MIS-TRESS?! EVERY-BODY?!

You were spying on me?

HA HA HA!

SORRY, TSU-GUMI!

Y'know...

FWUMP

HEY.

...

GOOD WORK OUT THERE.

But then we joined in.

WE TRIED TO STOP HER!

THAT'S OKAY. I DON'T CARE.

...

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

YEAH.

OKAY, OKAY!

YOU'RE WELCOME!

Geez, you're weird!!

ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS, JERK-FACE!

WELL, I'M THANKING YOU, OKAY?

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO HEAR YOU THANK ME...

WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK? ?!

...THE GUY TSUGUMI LIKES MUST BE REALLY SPECIAL!

IF SUZUYA ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH ...

WHA ...?!

MIS-TRESS!

HE WAS SO GOOD -LOOKING, TSUGUMI!

TOO BAD YOU TURNED HIM DOWN.

Don't tease me!

YOU KNOW WHO IT IS, SHU?

?!

NO WONDER YOU WEREN'T INTER-ESTED!

OH, HE'S A SPECIAL GUY, ALL RIGHT. RIGHT, SEISHIRO?

!

ピーン!!

TING

I KEEP TELLING YOU, I DON'T LIKE ANYONE!

PAINT BALL

HAHHH

HAHHH

LA-LA-LA!! I CAN'T HEEEAR YOU!!

WHO IS HE? TELL US, TSUGUMI!

YOU DO LIKE SOMEONE, DON'T YOU!!

SO IT'S TRUE!

SHAKKA
ﾌﾟﾙ SHAKKA
ﾌﾟﾙ...
Actu-
ally...
So
...
Who's
this guy
Tsugumi
likes?

RAKUUUUU!!

Chapter 27: Detour

DANG! JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO TALK TO ONO-DERA!

Oh, right!

THE TEACHER WANTED THEM IN THE LAB, REMEMBER?

THOSE?

HEY, WHERE DO THESE PRINTOUTS GO?

On it!

HEY...

CHI-TOGE!

NOT THE MUSIC LAB!

THE SCIENCE LAB!

HMM?

"CHI-TOGE?" ...

Honestly!

PHEW ...

...

OH.

WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER A WHILE, SO SOMEONE POINTED OUT THAT THE LAST NAME THING WAS WEIRD.

Still not used to it.

OH...

WE DECIDED THE OTHER DAY TO SWITCH TO FIRST NAMES.

WHISPER ヒソ…

RURI, PLEASE!

SHE BEAT YOU TO THE PUNCH!

???

Tsk!

OOF!!

SHOVE

ドス!!

?!

RATS.

I HATE PLAYING SWEETHEART IN FRONT OF ONODERA!

This bites!

HUH?

X

WHERE'S THE MISTRESS?

HEY, RAKU ICHIJO!

ガラッ

SHFF

I CAN'T DO THAT!

YOU'D BETTER START CALLING HIM RAKU TOO!

A SECRET ?

WHILE I'VE GOT YOU HERE, CAN YOU ALL SPARE A MINUTE?

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IN SECRET.

SHE DID?

THAT'S PERFECT.

HONEY HEADED OVER TO THE SCIENCE LAB A MINUTE AGO.

?

I'D LIKE TO THROW HER A SURPRISE PARTY.

TODAY IS MISTRESS CHITOGE'S BIRTHDAY.

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO COME?

LIKE I SAID, WHILE I'VE GOT YOU ALL HERE...

SHU ISN'T HERE...

OH...

I didn't know it was her birthday!

GUESS WE SHOULD GET HER A PRESENT, RIGHT?

SURE! OF COURSE WE'LL COME!

I'M SURE THE MISTRESS WOULD BE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU ALL THERE.

COME. ...

HUH? Which is it?

IF YOU GEEZ DON'T WANT ME THERE, I WON'T GO!

Although I'd rather not have to look at your ugly mug...

I MEAN, SINCE YOU'RE DATING THE MISTRESS, I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO INCLUDE YOU...

WELL, IF YOU INSIST ON COMING ...

Besides, it's weird being the "only" boy.

MIYA-MOTO ...

WHAT ABOUT YOU??

R-R-RURI ?!

SORRY. I HAVE A STOMACH-ACHE TODAY.

WHAT ?!

OKAY.

KOSAKI AND ICHIJO, YOU TWO GO GIFT SHOPPING TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL.

FORGET ME! JUST GO!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIYA-MOTO?

LOOK, YOU CAN HELP EACH OTHER CHOOSE. IT'S FASTER THAT WAY.

BUT YOU ATE TWO SET A LUNCHES!

Even though you're not coming ?!

You're giving us all the details ...

Meet at the cafe at five! That way you can go home and change first!

AND SO IT WENT.

...

HOW COME MIYA-MOTO'S ALWAYS SO BOSSY?

WHAT'S HER DEAL, ANYWAY?

ARG...

I'M SO NER-VOUS!

SHLRP ズズ…

...FEELS LIKE A DATE!

THIS ALMOST...

MEETING IN A CAFE...

ONO-DERA'S LATE...

HAA ハッ…

HAA ハッ…!

BUT DOES GIFT SHOPPING COUNT AS A-DATE??

...THAT MEANS MY FIRST DATE IS WITH ONODERA! NOT COUNTING THE FAKE ONES WITH CHITOGE, OF COURSE.

IF IT IS...

IS THIS A DATE?!

GAH! I DON'T KNOW!!

AAAAAAAH!! ギギギギギギギギ…

FWSH FWSH

SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT!

DID SHE RUN HERE?

OH! SHE'S LOOKING FOR ME!

HMM...

HOW DO I GET HER ATTEN-TION?

COME TO THINK OF IT, WE DIDN'T SAY WE'D MEET INSIDE.

OH!

DOES SHE SEE ME?

HAA...

HAA...

OH!!

ONO-DERA?!

GRIN ニッ！

HAAA…

PHEW…

カラン

DING DONG コロン

Welcome!

OKAY. WE'RE PRETEND-ING THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.

...

I get it.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GET FOR CHITOGE?

SO...

...

SOB

グス

DOES IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE A COUPLE?

Tee hee!

I WONDER HOW THIS LOOKS.

You saw ??

One coffee, please.

Coming right up.

DANG ONODERA SURE IS CUTE!

SHE ALWAYS LOOKS GREAT IN HER REGULAR CLOTHES.

...TEN YEARS AGO?

...FOR THE BOY YOU MADE A PROMISE WITH...

ARE YOU STILL WAIT-ING...

HMM... A COUPLE...

ドキ LUB DUB

ドキ LUB DUB

I WONDER WHEN ONODERA'S BIRTHDAY IS.

HMM...

IF SHE HASN'T HAD IT YET, I'D LIKE TO GET HER SOMETHING TOO...

HUH?

OH... GOOD QUES-TION.

WHAT DO YOU THINK CHITOGE WANTS FOR HER BIRTH-DAY?

HEY...

AGH! I WISH I KNEW WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT!!

NO BIGGIE. THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO ASK!

SORRY, YOU WERE SAYING? ...

?

OH.. NOTH-ING.

LET'S JUST GO BROWSE. THAT'S PROBABLY EASIEST!

I KNOW!

UM, ONO-DERA? ...

THAT WAS OVER SO FAST!

I'm such a coward.

I hope she likes them!

OH, GOOD! WE FOUND THE PERFECT GIFTS!

WELL, YOU KNOW, RURI KIND OF ROPED YOU INTO THIS.

I WASN'T SURE YOU WANTED TO DO THIS TOGETHER.

WHAT?!

DID YOU HAVE FUN, ICHIJO?

HUH?

WAAH! WE BARELY HAD TIME TO TALK!

I WAS SO OVER-WHELMED, JUST BEING WITH HER...

I HAD A GREAT TIME!

I'D GO ANY-WHERE WITH YOU, ONO-DERA!

THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!

OF COURSE I DID!

HEY...

MIND IF WE MAKE A LITTLE DETOUR?

HUH?

OH!

THAT'S GOOD!

SHAA...!!

WHOA!!

WHAT AN AMAZING VIEW!!

I FOUND IT BY ACCIDENT A LONG TIME AGO.

IT'S MY SECRET SPOT.

How'd you find this place?

WHO WOULDA THOUGHT THAT LITTLE ALLEYWAY LED HERE?

A SECRET SPOT?

WOW... I'M SO FLATTERED!

SHE REALLY DOESN'T MIND SHARING HER SECRET WITH ME?

ISN'T IT AWE-SOME?

IT'S OUR LITTLE SECRET.

DON'T TELL ANYONE, OKAY?

I'VE NEVER SHOWN IT TO ANYONE.

REAL-LY?

MIYA-MOTO, MAYBE?

DOES ANYONE ELSE KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE?

NOPE.

THIS IS MY WAY OF SAYING THANKS.

I HAD A GOOD TIME TODAY.

YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND ME KNOWING?

FOR REAL?

HA HA!

OF COURSE NOT!

YOU'VE GOT IT! MUM'S THE WORD!

I PROMISE!

WELL, I LIKE THE IDEA OF SHARING A SECRET! I SURE DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT HER!

SHOOP

ONO-DERA'S BEING EXTRA FRIENDLY TODAY!

?

WOW... WE HAVE A SECRET TOGETHER?! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, I'M SO STOKED!

RAKU!

YES...

I PROMISE TOO...

LUB DUB

HUH?

NO, IT COULDN'T BE!

ドキン...
LUB DUB

ドキン...
LUB-DUB

WAS IT THAT...?

I GUESS I'M MORE COMFORT-ABLE CALLING YOU ICHIJO...

FOR A MOMENT THERE, SHE LOOKED JUST LIKE...

OR WAS I JUST REACTING TO THE WORD "PROMISE"?

I MEAN, ONODERA COULDN'T BE HER... THAT'S JUST WISHFUL THINKING!

...

HA HA...

IT'S KINDA WEIRD, CALLING YOU THAT...

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO ASK HER BIRTHDAY!

Y-YES...

GOTTA GET A GRIP!

HUH?!

DID IT BOTHER YOU THAT I CALLED YOU RAKU?

SORRY, ICHIJO!

...

NOT AT ALL!

ANYWAY...

...IT WOULD BE GREAT TO CELEBRATE WITH HER.

CAN I...

...ASK YOU SOME-THING?

PROBABLY NOT JUST THE TWO OF US, BUT...

AND MAYBE I'LL ASK IF I COULD CELEBRATE IT WITH HER...

UM... ONO-DERA?

IF YOU DON'T MIND...

...TEN YEARS AGO?

WERE YOU THE GIRL...

...I MADE A PROMISE WITH...

WHAT?!

HUH?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT!!

OH MY GOD...

SHE'S GONNA THINK I'M CRAZY!!

NOW WHAT'LL I SAY??

I WAS SO NERVOUS, I JUST BLURTED IT OUT!!

I AM.

YES.

So much for my big moment!
What's going on?
didn't react at all when I used his first name!
That's weird.

YES.

I AM.

Chapter 28: Celebration

...

ONO...

...DËRA?

I THINK SO.

I MEAN...

...

...ONCE BEFORE.

YOU MENTIONED THIS...

LUB DUB

WELL, I MADE A PROMISE WITH SOMEONE, TOO.

I WAS JUST A LITTLE KID, SO I BARELY REMEMBER HIM...

YOU MADE A PROMISE WITH A GIRL TEN YEARS AGO, RIGHT?

チャリ

TING

THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER...

I DON'T REMEMBER HIS NAME OR WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE.

...IS THAT...

...HE WORE A PENDANT JUST LIKE YOURS.

ドキン... LUB DUB

ドキン... LUB DUB

A PENDANT LIKE MINE?!

DOES THAT MEAN...

IS ONODERA THE GIRL?

THAT CAN'T BE A COINCI-DENCE!

TEN YEARS AGO...

...WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD...

...I MET A BOY.

WHEN WE SAID GOODBYE, HE GAVE ME THIS KEY.

I ONLY PLAYED WITH THAT BOY FOR ONE SUMMER, BUT...

HE SEEMED SO RELIABLE AND KIND.

I WAS SHY AND HE BROUGHT ME OUT OF MY SHELL.

WHEN YOU ASK ME IF I RECOG-NIZED THE PENDANT ...

I'M SOR-RY.

...I WAS TAKEN ABACK AND SAID NO.

...HE WAS MY FIRST LOVE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... ...I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...

DOKI LUB DUB

SO THAT'S WHY ONODERA...

OH...

...MAYBE IT'S STILL IMPORTANT TO HER.

EVEN IF IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO AND YOU WERE JUST KIDS...

SO...

WHEN I SAW YOUR PENDANT, I WAS SHOCKED.

WHAT IF THAT BOY WAS ACTUALLY YOU?!

I THOUGHT ...

...WAS THINKING...

...THAT BOY IS YOU.

...WAS I REALLY HOPE...

WELL...

ACTUAL-LY...

WHAT...

...I...

LUB DUB

DOES THAT MEAN...

LUB DUB

LUB DUB

ONODERA?!

WHATooo

LUB DUB

RRRRRRRING

RRRRRRING

RRRRRRRRING

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT LATER!

SORRY, ONO-DERA!

ﾊｰｲ...!

KCHAK

SURE! WE'D BETTER HURRY!

RATS! TALK ABOUT ROTTEN TIMING !!

WHERE ARE YOU, RAKU ICHIJO?! GET YOUR BUTT OVER HERE!!

IF ONODERA IS THE GIRL I MADE THE PROMISE WITH...

KLICKITY-KLAK

ｶﾞﾀﾀﾝ...

IF...

KLICKITY-KLAK

ｶﾞﾀﾀﾝ...

THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!

WE STILL DON'T KNOW FOR SURE...

BUT...

THIS IS...

...

CHITOGE'S HOUSE?

...

IT'S HUMON-GOUS!!

UM, WHAT DO CHI-TOGE'S PARENTS DO?

AW, C'MON, SEISHIRO! WE'RE BUDS, RIGHT?

HA HA!

BY THE WAY, WHO INVITED THIS IDIOT?

GO AWAY!

Yeah, yeah. We're all very moved!

THE MISTRESS CARES NOT FOR THE MONETARY VALUE OF A GIFT!!

UH-OH. MY PRESENT ISN'T VERY FANCY...

Ha ha ha

...I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF INVITING THEM TO CELE-BRATE.

IN HONOR OF YOUR BIRTHDAY, MIS-TRESS...

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?

WH...

WH...

WH...

HEY, CHITOGE!

HAPPY BIRTH-DAY!!

YOU'RE STILL HUNG UP ABOUT THAT?

OH.

NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT MY FAMILY BEING GANG-STERS...

WHAT'LL I DO?

HUH?

WHAT FOR?

CAN I HAVE A WORD, PLEASE, DARLING?

'SCUSE US.

?

HRLFF?!

THE THING ABOUT CHITOGE'S FAMILY IS...

HEY, EVERY-BODY!

WAVE

ZA ZA..!

WAVE

IT'S A BIG DEAL!

IT'S KEPT ME FROM HAVING FRIENDS ALL THIS TIME!!

Of course I'm hung up about it!

NO WONDER YOU'RE SO WELL-OFF!!

OH!!

Gang-sters?

Kinda like what we call Yakuza in Japan.

NO PROB-LEM.

SEE?

UM... IS SOME-THING WRONG?

JUST LIKE ICHIJO'S FAMILY, RIGHT?

THAT'S SO COOL!

SO...

ガチャ…

KCHAK

…WELCOME TO THE PARTY.

パパパパパーン!!

KA-KA-KA-POW

HOORAY! BRAVO!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YOUNG MISTRESS!!

HIP, HIP

HOORAY!!

フアアアア!!

DUDE, THESE SURPRISE PARTIES GET FRESHER EVERY YEAR!

パチ パチ パチ パチ

CLAP CLAP

パチ パチ パチ パチ

CLAP CLAP

SWEET SIXTEEN! HOT DANG! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

ER, THANK YOU FOR INVITING US!

WELCOME, WELCOME, LOVELY LADIES!

AIN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME YOU BROUGHT FRIENDS HOME, MISTRESS?

LOOKY HERE! YOU THE MISTRESS'S FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL?

OH! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING US...

WEL-COME TO OUR HUMBLE ABODE!

HOW DELIGHTFUL. WE'RE HONORED TO BE GRACED WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE MISTRESS'S CLASSMATES.

YEAH! LIKE, HAPPIER THAN USUAL OR SOMETHIN'!

HEY, DOES THE MISTRESS SEEM DIFFERENT SOMEHOW TO YOU?

YEAH, RIGHT!

RRMMBB

ゴゴゴ

Thanks for raising the bar!

I'M SURE YOU'VE PREPARED A MAGNIFICENT BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR THE MISTRESS !!

OH, DEAR!

Heh heh heh

HE'S GETTING MORE AND MORE TRANS-PARENT

I'M AFRAID MY HUMBLE GIFT WILL SEEM PATHETIC IN COM-PARISON!

IF IT ISN'T THE YOUNG SCION OF THE ICHIJO HOUSE-HOLD...

WELL, WELL!

ゴゴゴゴゴ

RRRRMMBBB

CHECK OUT WHAT WE GOT YA!

HEY, MIS-TRESS !

WOW, THANKS SO MUCH!!

I LOVE THEM!!

I got you a book.

The pen's cute, see?

IT'S JUST AN ORDINARY STATION-ERY SET...

HERE, CHITOGE! I GOT YOU A LITTLE SOME-THING.

Japanese folk songs and bananas?

YOU LIKE JAPAN-ESE FOLK SONGS, CHITOGE ?

YEP.

...

ブッ!! BLRFF!

We heard that's what you're into!

...

A THOUSAND JAPANESE FOLK SONG CDS AND A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF BANANAS!!

TA-DAA!!

A SUPER DELUXE CUSTOM-BUILT MAYBACH!

OVER ONE MILLION YEN!

...BUT I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

TIME FOR MY GIFT.

HEH HEH HEH

I DON'T EVEN HAVE A LICENSE.

NO THANKS.

TA-DAA!!

Whoa, dude!!

I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL COMPARED TO THE YOUNG MASTER'S GIFT...

HAPPY BIRTH-DAY!

HERE.

DANG! NOW I FEEL LIKE A TOTAL LOSER...

Go for it! Go for it!

WELL, KID. YOU'RE LAST.

KNOCK 'ER DEAD!

TA-DAA!!!

Hee hee...

YOU SUGGESTIN' OUR MISTRESS LOOKS LIKE A GORILLA?

HEY, PUNK! WHAT'S THIS S'POSED TO MEAN?

GRRR

WHEN I SAW IT IN THE STORE, IT JUST KINDA CLICKED ...

NO! I JUST...

HUH ?!

I LOVE IT!!

HA HA HA!!

THANKS!

Why? Mistress? Whyyy??

ドキ…!! LUB DUB

...?!

Well, if the Mis-tress says so...

Really? You're good with this, Mistress?

GRIN

ゴッ!

YAP
YAP
Phew!
YAP
YAP
YAP
THAT'S WEIRD.
WHERE DID THAT SWEET SMILE COME FROM?
OH.
ME TOO.
JUST GETTING A LITTLE AIR.
KCHAK
ガチャ…
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
OH!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DATING, REMEMBER?
IF I DON'T ACT LIKE I LOVE IT, THEY'LL GET SUSPICIOUS.
WHAT?!
SO THAT WAS JUST AN ACT?
IDIOT.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO AHEAD AND CHUCK IT!
SIGH
JEEZ…
YOU HAVE THE WORST TASTE IN PRESENTS!
I NEARLY DIED LAUGHING!!!

OF COURSE NOT!

YOU *DO* LIKE IT, DON'T YOU?

...

OH.

...

SO...I'LL TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF IT.

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

THAT ALMOST GAVE ME LOVE FLUTTERS FOR A SECOND THERE!

SHEESH... IT'S SO OUT OF CHARACTER, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE IT WHEN SHE ACTS SWEET.

"I'LL TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF IT"?

HEY, RAKU ...

...GOT A MINUTE?

WE'RE TALKING SOUL-MATE STUFF HERE, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!

I JUST FOUND OUT TODAY THAT ONODERA MIGHT BE THE PENDANT GIRL.

HOLD ON... WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?

AAAAH!!

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT...

CAN I ASK YOU A QUES-TION?

HUH?

SURE... WHAT'S UP?

WELL...

THAT GIRL YOU MET TEN YEARS AGO...

DO YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR HER?

WHAT?

...

THERE YOU GO AGAIN!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!! I JUST...

WAIT A SEC..!!

...

IF IT REALLY WAS HER...

...MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONO-DERA!!

...BUT THE GIRL I MET TEN YEARS AGO...

I STILL DON'T KNOW FOR SURE...

"ZAWSZE IN LOVE" ...

HUH?

...MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

YES.

I STILL DO.

OH.

...

WELL THEN...

...

DO THE WORDS ...

The Shopping Trip
(I don't know why...)
I think she'll like it!
This is good!!
Hey!

Chapter 29: Making Sure

DO THE WORDS "ZAWSZE IN LOVE"...

...MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

...KNOW ABOUT THAT?!

HOW DO YOU...

HOW...

WHAT?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ドクン…

LUB DUB!

THEY DO MEAN SOME-THING TO YOU?

SO...

IT REMINDED ME OF SOME STUFF THAT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO...

THE OTHER DAY...

...I FOUND AN OLD DIARY IN MY CLOSET.

...SHE SAID WHEN WE MADE OUR PROMISE!!

THOSE ARE THE WORDS...

HUH?!

WE MADE A PROMISE TO EACH OTHER WHEN WE SAID GOODBYE.

WE SPENT A SUMMER PLAYING TOGETHER AND GOT TO BE REALLY CLOSE.

TEN YEARS AGO, I MET A LITTLE BOY.

I DON'T REMEMBER HIS NAME OR WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE...

JUST THE PHRASE "ZAWSZE IN LOVE".

WHAT ABOUT ONODERA?!

BUT...

THAT'S JUST LIKE WHAT I REMEMBER...

?!

YOU RECOGNIZE IT?!

NO!!

!!

THE KEY?!

JING

キャリ...

OH...

AND THIS WAS TUCKED IN THE DIARY.

AND THAT PHRASE...

BUT WHY DOES CHITOGE HAVE A KEY TOO?

I MEAN... ONODERA'S THE GIRL!

ドクン... LUB DUB

ドクン... LUB DUB

BUT... IT CAN'T BE!!

IT DOES RING A BELL SOMEHOW...

ドクン... LUB DUB

ドクン... LUB DUB

...

...THAT WHEN WE MET AGAIN, WE'D UNLOCK THIS PENDANT.

I MADE A PROMISE WITH THE GIRL I MET...

I...

ドクン... LUB DUB

...

YOU MEAN, *THIS* KEY?!

WAIT A SEC...

...SHE SHOULD STILL HAVE THE KEY.

LUB DUB ドクン...

IF SHE REMEMBERS OUR PROMISE...

ドクン...! LUB DUB!

WHA...

...

ドクン...! LUB DUB!

ドクン...! LUB DUB!

LUB DUB!!

...

I KNOW, RIGHT? I MEAN, GIMME A BREAK!!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS! NO WAY!!

THE BOY I DESCRIBED IN MY DIARY WAS NOTHING LIKE YOU!!

WELL, DUH! OF COURSE NOT!

THIS IS JUST A BIZARRE COINCIDENCE!

YEAH! YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE THE GIRL I REMEMBER!!

FOR ONE THING, I HAVE NO MEMORY OF EVER MEETING YOU BEFORE!!

SMIRK

WELL, THE GIRL I MET WAS SWEET, DELICATE, AND REFINED. TOTALLY UNLIKE YOU!

IS THAT SO?

OH, REALLY?!

A TOTAL DREAMBOAT!

UNLIKE YOU, HE WAS CHARMING AND CHIVALROUS...

HUFF

HUFF

I MEAN, YOU?! GIMME A BREAK!!

THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME!

I MEAN, PUH-LEASE!!

WHY WOULD I MAKE A DOOFUS LIKE YOU A BIG PROMISE WHEN IT WAS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE?

OH, YEAH? WELL, WHOOP-DE-DOO!

...SHOULD WE MAKE SURE?

THEN...

BUT...

...OF COURSE IT WON'T OPEN!

IF IT DOESN'T OPEN, WE CAN REST EASY KNOWING WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER!

IF THAT'S THE REAL KEY...

...IT SHOULD OPEN THIS PENDANT.

WELL, ISN'T THAT NICE?

WHAT IF IT REALLY WAS ME, *HUH?* THEN WHAT'LL YOU DO?

STRONG, CAPABLE, ALWAYS COMING TO MY RESCUE...

UNLIKE YOU, *HE* WAS LIKE A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!

GUSH

THERE'S NO WAY *YOU'RE* THE GUY.

SURE. WHY NOT?

I'LL KISS YOU, EVEN!

HA!

I'LL DO ANY-THING YOU SAY!

HUH?

!!?

GASP!

アアアア

GOOD! GO FOR IT! DON'T HOLD BACK!

YOU AND I HAVE ABSO-LUTELY NO CONNEC-TION TO EACH OTHER!!

JUST WATCH! YOU'LL SEE!

YEAH! GO ON, DO IT!

I KNOW IT WON'T OPEN, BUT IF YOU INSIST, LET'S DO THIS!

HERE GOES ...

ドクン… LUB DUB

ドクン… LUB DUB

ゴク… ULP!

HERE GOES...

HURRY UP!!

THERE'S NO WAY WE EVER LIKED EACH OTHER!!

YOU'LL SEE! I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU!

ドクン… LUB DUB

ドクン… LUB DUB

ドクン… LUB DUB

IT WENT IN!!

!!

KA-

CHING

...

CLENCH

KLINK!

SNAP
OH!!

AUGH! I COULDN'T HELP IT!

I WAS NERVOUS, AND I USED TOO MUCH STRENGTH, OKAY?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU CRAZY BRUTE!!

IT BROKE?!

おおおお AAAAH!!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?!

GAH! NOW WHAT?! IT'S STUCK IN THERE!!

My beloved pendant...

GREAT! JUST GREAT! NOW I CAN'T EVEN TRY ONODERA'S KEY!!

...

SHEESH! LOOK WHO'S TRYING TO ACT COOL!

BACK TO THE PARTY.

LET'S FORGET THIS.

WE ALREADY KNOW WE DIDN'T MAKE THAT PROMISE TOGETHER, RIGHT?

WELL, WHATEVER.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

HEY! YOU'RE LEAVING?!

PHEW

...WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE?!

YIKES! IF THAT LOCK HAD OPENED...

IF I KNEW WHO IT WAS, THEN I'D KNOW...

I MUST HAVE MET ONE OF THEM TEN YEARS AGO...

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? WHO DID I MAKE THE PROMISE WITH?

ARGH! BOTH ONODERA AND KIRISAKI REMEMBER A PROMISE TEN YEARS AGO, AND A KEY... IT CAN'T JUST BE COINCIDENCE!

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

ARE YOU HERE FOR CHITOGE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?

HUH?

BUT WHO WAS IT?

WELL, WELL!

IF IT ISN'T YOUNG RAKU!

OH!

I REMEMBER NOW!

HE LOOKS FAMILIAR...

?

WHO IS THIS GUY?

HE'S THE GANGSTER BOSS!

KIRISAKI'S DAD!

GOOD EVENING!

...SHE SEEMS SO HAPPY.

SINCE WE MOVED BACK TO JAPAN ...

I'M SORRY YOU TWO HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE LOVERS. I KNOW IT MUST BE HARD.

KREAK

ARE YOU AND CHITOGE GETTING ALONG?

HUH?

I BET IT'S BE-CAUSE OF YOU. SO THANK YOU.

WELL, KIND OF...

REALLY?

It's definitely not because of me...

COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN THE U.S.

ALL WE EVER DO IS FIGHT!!

NO WE'RE NOT!

COM-PATIBLE ?

I KNEW IT WOULD WORK OUT.

YOU TWO ARE SO COMPATI-BLE...

AFTER ALL...

HA HA! DON'T BE SILLY!

...

WHAT?!

LUB... Kl...y...

HA HA! YOU DON'T REMEM-BER, DO YOU?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ??

WHEN WE WERE LITTLE ?!

THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO!

YOUR FATHER AND I SPENT A MONTH IN A CERTAIN SPOT IN JAPAN, WORKING OUT A DEAL.

YOU TWO WERE INSEPARABLE...

...WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE.

YOU TWO HAD SO MUCH FUN TOGETHER.

I'LL NEVER FORGET IT!

WHEN OUR TALKS WERE NEARLY OVER... WE NOTICED THAT THE TWO OF YOU HAD GROWN CLOSE.

I BROUGHT HER WITH ME. CHITOGE WAS FIVE AT THE TIME.

...

DOES THAT MEAN...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

...MET TEN YEARS AGO?!

KIRISAKI AND I...

...I MADE THAT PROMISE WITH KIRISAKI?

AND NOT ONODERA?!

BUT OF COURSE...

...THAT'S NOT THE STRANG-EST PART!

WHAT?

ooo??

THE THREE OF US?

LUB DUB

ドクン

...WAS TO SEE THE THREE OF YOU TOGETHER AGAIN!

THE LAST THING I EXPECTED...

YOU KNOW ...

...WHO CAME WITH YOU TODAY!

...THE YOUNG LADY...

THE THREE OF YOU...

...USED TO ALWAYS PLAY TOGETHER!

DON'T YOU REMEM-BER?

OH!

I THOUGHT YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED ...

I MET BOTH OF THEM TEN YEARS AGO?!

NO WAY !!

I SUPPOSE IT MUST BE DESTINY!

FOR REAL?! THIS IS UNBELIEV-ABLE!!

LUB DUB

WHA ...?!

KIRI SAKI...

IN OTHER WORDS...

...THE GIRL I REMEMBER COULD BE EITHER ONE.

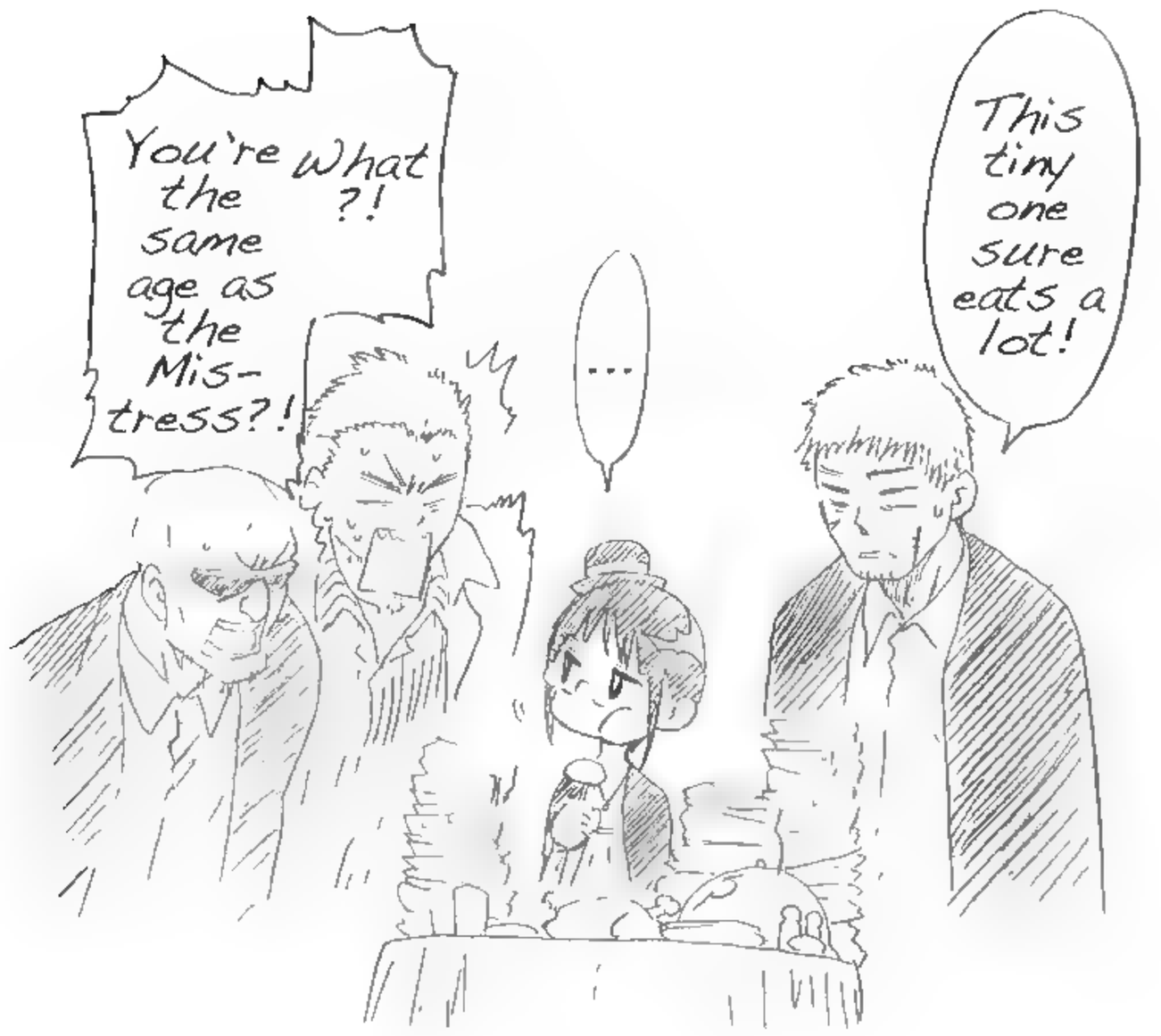
...OR ONODERA!

Where've you been?

SO-RY!

I MET THEM BOTH...

...WHEN WE WERE KIDS!


You're What ?!
the same age as the Mis-tress?!
...
This tiny one sure eats a lot!

WE'VE MET BEFORE.

TEN YEARS AGO...

...IN THE SAME PLACE!

Chapter 30: Photo

WAIT A SEC!

WHAT A SHOCKER!

BUT...

BUT I REMEMBER MAKING A PROMISE WITH ONLY **ONE** GIRL!

BOTH OF THEM REMEMBER MAKING A PROMISE WITH SOMEONE TEN YEARS AGO.

...WE'LL GET MARRIED!

WHEN WE MEET AGAIN...

...ARE THERE TWO KEYS?!

WHY...

IF IT REALLY WAS ONODERA...

WHO WAS IT?

BUT WHAT IF... ...IT WAS KIRISAKI?

SIGH...

KOSAKI ICHIJO... THAT HAS A NICE RING!

WAIT, WHAT AM I THINKING?! I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!!

WHOA! IF IT WAS ONODERA, THAT WOULD BE SO AMAZING!!

WHAT A SHOCK! I DON'T KNOW HOW I'D GET USED TO THAT IDEA.

I MEAN, IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT KIRISAKI COULD BE THE ONE!

NOOOOOOO!!

ぬおおおおおお

...

HRM.

THAT WOULDN'T CHANGE!

ONODERA'S THE GIRL I LIKE NOW.

SHOO

SHOO

EVEN IF KIRISAKI IS THE ONE...

WELL, SO WHAT?

SKRICH SKRICH

ボリボリ...

OH, HEY, SHU.

THIS IS TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.

HEY, UNCLE!

HOW DOES IT LOOK?

SO?

NOTHING WOULD CHANGE!

A SIGNED EDITION, MY GOOD MAN!

YOU GOT THE BIKINI BABES PHOTO-BOOK WE TALKED ABOUT? AND ...

ALRIGHT! I'LL GET THE LOCK FIXED, DON'T WORRY!

IT'S KINDA UNUSUAL.

WELL, JUST DO WHAT YOU CAN! OH ...

YOU'LL HAVE TO BE PATIENT.

I CAN PROBABLY FIX IT, BUT IT'LL TAKE A WHILE.

110 KCHAK

AT LEAST IT'S FIXABLE.

WELL, THAT'S GOOD.

THANKS.

PHEW

IT'S IN GOOD HANDS.

THERE YOU HAVE IT.

SORRY.

I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT ONE OF THESE DAYS.

When are you going to tell me?

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THAT PENDANT, ANYWAY?

SO...

ガヤ YAP

ガヤ YAP

...

OH... GOOD MORNING.

YAP ガヤ

YAP ガヤ

ガヤ YAP

OH, HEY.

G'MORN-ING, RAKU.

GRR

むぅ

Doo

WHAT GIVES?

IT'S LIKE ALL THAT STUFF LAST NIGHT...

...NEVER EVEN HAPPENED!

HE'S A LOCK-SMITH, AND...

LOOKS LIKE SHU'S UNCLE CAN FIX MY PENDANT.

BY THE WAY...

OH, REALLY?

THAT'S NICE.

UGH. OL' FOUR-EYES IS HERE!

SO, WE'RE BEING WATCHED TODAY.

THAT STUFF SHE SAID ABOUT A KISS...

ガラッ
SHFF

HMM ?

"EEK"?

EEK!

HERE GOES NOTHING, HONEY!

WHAP

WELL, GUESS IT'S TIME FOR THE LOVEY-DOVEY SHOW.

WELL, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! FOUR EYES IS WATCHING!

I KNOW! LOVEY-DOVEY TIME, RIGHT?

IT IS NOT!

DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!

HOW COME YOUR FACE IS RED?

HEY...

...

HUH?

WE CAN'T HELP IT. WE'RE SO CRAZY ABOUT EACH OTHER!

HA HA HA! I KNOW, RIGHT!

JOLT

YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS SURE ARE INSEPA-RABLE!

GOOD MORNING, KIRISAKI AND ICHIJO!

THAT'S RIGHT.

HA HA.

WHY'S SHE ACTING SO WEIRD?

WHAT'S UP?

SHUT UP!!

LEAVE ME ALONE, WOULD-JA?

UM, HELLO? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!

?

?

?

?

THEY DO, DON'T THEY!

DO THE WORDS "ZAWSZE IN LOVE" MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

I NEED TO CHILL OUT.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?

ｸﾞｯ…!

CLENCH

ICHIJO?

ｴﾆ

ｷｯ,!

LUB DUB

ONO-DERA?

...OR IS CHITOGE ACTING KINDA WEIRD TODAY?

IS IT JUST ME...

ｻｸ...SHF

YOU THOUGHT SO TOO, ONO-DERA?

YEAH, SHE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE-LY.

DID YOU TWO HAVE A FIGHT?

NO... NOT EXACTLY ...

HEY...

HUH?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PENDANT, ICHIJO?

...NERVOUS BECAUSE WE MIGHT HAVE MADE THAT PROMISE TO EACH OTHER?

NO, THAT CAN'T BE IT!

IS SHE...

Impossible!

TING-

I SEE.

OH!

HOPEFULLY IT'LL BE FIXED SOON.

OH, THAT.

ACTUALLY, IT'S BROKEN. I TOOK IT IN TO GET REPAIRED THIS MORNING.

...THAT WE'D MET BEFORE AS CHILDREN?

I WONDER...

...HOW ONODERA WOULD REACT IF SHE KNEW...

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

SHE'S PROBABLY JUST NOT FEELING WELL.

OKAY. THAT'S A RELIEF.

YIKES! JUST THINKING OF IT MAKES MY HEART SKIP A BEAT!

I'M A LITTLE WOR-RIED, BUT I'M SURE SHE'LL BE OKAY. WELL ...

...THAT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH ICHIJO IS JUST AN ACT...

?

CHITOGE SAID...

I-C

...HOW ICHIJO REALLY FEELS ABOUT HER?

BUT I WONDER...

JING

A word of advice!

...DON'T BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO ORDER A SHOT OF THE PERSON YOU LIKE!

OH, AND ...

HEY, WHAT DID SHE JUST SAY?!

YES, TEACH ...

GOT IT?

WRITE DOWN THE NUMBERS OF THE PICTURES YOU WANT TO ORDER AND SUBMIT THEM TO ME.

YES!

THE PICTURES FROM THE SCHOOL TRIP ARE ON DISPLAY ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE HALL.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE, CLASS!

CHATTER

CHATTER

BUT DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY...

SURE.

WE CAN ORDER AS MANY AS WE WANT?

WOW!

OH, YEAH! TAKE DOWN THE NUMBER!

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE, MISTRESS ?

AND THIS ONE TOO! WE'RE ALL IN IT!

OH! I WANT THIS ONE!

IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER...

THEY'RE A TOTAL RIP-OFF FOR 100 YEN EACH!

JUST CHOOSE THE ONES YOU REALLY WANT.

SURE! GOOD IDEA!

SO... SHOULD WE CHECK THEM OUT?

You're hilarious, Chitoge!

This is like a dream come true!!

AT LEAST SHE'S ACTING LIKE HERSELF AGAIN.

WELL...

WHERE ?

WE'RE BOTH IN IT, KOSAKI.

HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE?

Which one?

I HOPE THERE'S ONE OF YOU AND ME TOGETHER, RURI!

I HAFTA GET AT LEAST ONE GOOD ONE OF ONODERA!

OKAY, HERE GOES!

OUCH!

WHAT-EVER.

ドキ SNEAK ドキ SNEAK

THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER SHOT OF YOU BOTH.

That's me!

We're tiny!

UH, THIS ONE?

TA-DAA

#89

Just trying to help!

WHAP

ポコ

ポコ

WHAP

ポコ

WHAP

パパパ

DA-DA-DUM!!

IF THERE WAS ONE OF US TOGETHER, THAT WOULD BE AWESOME!

HOPE I CAN FIND A GOOD ONE.

HUH?

HEY, HERE'S ONE OF RAKU AND KOSAKI!

Y-Y-YEAH... ME EITHER.

GEE... I GUESS I DON'T REALLY WANT ANY OF THESE.

YOU TWO ARE SO ANNOYING!

BUT IF ANYONE SEES ME ORDERING IT...

WHOA! I TOTALLY WANT THAT!

SHU...

Heh heh... My good man.

WOULD YOU CARE TO PERUSE MY WARES? I ASSURE YOU, THEY'RE UNBEATABLE!

I HAVE JUST WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR! STEP RIGHT UP, GOOD SIR!

SCUM-BAG!

PER-VERT!

YOU PIG!

SICKO!

WHAT'S THIS? SELLING DIRTY PHOTOS OF THE GIRLS?

GO EASY! YOU'LL MAKE ME CRY!

NOT AT ALL, LADIES!

THEY'RE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES!! DON'T MISS OUT!

A COLLECTION OF THE MOST EXCEPTIONAL SHOTS OF THE GIRLS IN OUR GRADE...

MAIKO! I'LL TAKE NUMBER 13!

I WANT NUMBER 94!

FLUSH

BRLFF

I HAVE SHOTS OF YOU TWO LADIES TOO, ONODERA AND RURI!

Care for a peek?

MY SPECIALTY ...

SELLING STRAIGHT-UP DIRTY PICTURES IS AGAINST MY MORALS!

...IS EX-QUISITELY EMBAR-RASSING SHOTS!

KINDA WISH I SAW IT...

CRUMPLE

SHRED ビリビリ!!

SHRED ビリ

RIP ズバッ!!

RIP メキ!!

AAAIIEE!!

AUGH! WHY, YOU...

WELL? DO YOU LIKE THEM?

TA-DAA!!

zzZZ

zzZ

I SAVED A SPECIAL MASTER-PIECE JUST FOR YOU...

HEY, RAKU ...

HUH?

FLIP ピラ...

HUH?

NOW, IF I CAN JUST FIND A SHOT OF ONODERA AND ME TOGETHER...

Come again, kind sir!

In any case, I have this to treasure ...

I'LL TAKE IT.

SOO YEN.

HOW MUCH?

WAY OFF IN THE BACK-GROUND ...

437

438

THIS PIC-TURE...

439

WHAT'S THIS?

132

ONODERA?!

437

433

438

434

444

I can't believe the teacher posted this!

A SHOT OF ONODERA CHANGING?!

!!!

LUCKILY, I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S BEEN DOWN HERE YET.

I'D BETTER LET THE TEACHER KNOW SO SHE CAN DELETE THE PHOTO BEFORE ANYONE SEES.

SHFF

WHAT IF...

...SOMEONE NOTICES THIS AND ORDERS PRINTS?

OOPS. THE PIC-TURE!

ヒラッ..

FLUTTER

ACK! IT'S ONODERA!

OH! ICHIJO!

ドン!!

TONK

OOPS! SOR-RY!

OH! EXCUSE ME!

...A SHOT OF HER CHANGING!!

IF SHE NOTICES, SHE'LL THINK I WAS TRYING TO BUY...

OH NO!

IS THIS YOURS?

SHP

ヒョイ

!!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, ONO-DERA!

SEE YOU!

SWIPE

HYAAA!!

A PICTURE OF...

...CHITOGE?

SHE WOULD'VE THOUGHT I WAS A TOTAL PERV!

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!

TMP

TMP

Kosaki and Ruri's Embarrassing Shots

Ruri: "Why did you stuff so much food in your mouth? You look like a hamster!"
Kosaki: "The noodles were longer than I thought, okay?"
Kosaki: "At least cover your mouth, Ruri!"
Ruri: "I was sleepy, okay?"

Chapter 31: After School

THAT PHOTO!

CHITOGE?

...ICHIJO...

DOES THIS MEAN...

WHY DID ICHIJO HAVE THAT?

KCHAK
ガラ!!
I'M HOME!
WELCOME HOME, YOUNG MASTER!
Take a load off!
GRIN
GRIN
MAYBE I'LL FRAME IT.
CAN'T LET ONODERA SEE IT, THOUGH.
WHAT A GREAT SHOT!
HEH HEH...

ズズ…

DANG.

SHLRP

MAYBE THAT WOULD GIVE ME A HINT.

IF ONLY WE HAD PHOTOS FROM BACK THEN.

WONDER WHAT THE BEST WAY TO FIND OUT IS...

...I STILL DON'T KNOW WHICH GIRL I MADE THE PROMISE WITH!

AFTER ALL THAT...

EH?

PHOTOS?

YES, I THINK THERE'S ONE.

I'VE SCOURED THE HOUSE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM!

WHERE IS IT?

IT'S IN THE STORAGE SHED.

WELL, YOU WON'T FIND IT THAT WAY.

REALLY?!

FOR REAL?

I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS SUCH A VALUABLE CLUE RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE!

MAYBE THIS'LL BRING ME ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE TRUTH!

WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF PICTURES OF THAT...

...BUT I BELIEVE THERE'S ONE IN THE BACK OF THE STORAGE SHED.

YOU MEAN FROM THAT TRIP WE TOOK TEN YEARS AGO, RIGHT?

.....

SOMETHING ABOUT A SPECIAL PROMISE OR SOME SUCH MUMBO JUMBO...

I REMEMBER YOU ASKED ME TO TAKE...

...A SHOT OF YOU AND A LITTLE GIRL WITH A KEY.

WHAT?!

A SPECIAL PROMISE...?!

A LITTLE GIRL WITH A KEY?!

NOW, IF I CAN JUST FIND THAT PICTURE...

THE GIRL I'M WITH IN THAT PICTURE...

...COULD BE THE GIRL I MADE THE PROMISE WITH!

ゴト...

KTUNK

THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE!

THIS MIGHT BE BETTER THAN A HINT TO THE TRUTH.

HEY, RAKU!

...BUT I DIDN'T FIND ANY-THING!

SIGH

DAMN. I SEARCHED ALL NIGHT...

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME SPECIAL TACTICS UP YOUR SLEEVE, GENIUS.

WELL, YOU KNOW... FINALS ARE COMING UP.

HOW COME?

GENIUS? Why're you U kissing up to me?

WANNA GO TO MICKY B'S FOR A STUDY SESSION?

YOU FREE AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?

WHAT'S UP, SHU?

ONODERA'S COMING.

BESIDES, I HAVE TO LOOK FOR SOME-THING THIS AFTER-NOON.

AS AN ASPIRING CIVIL SERVANT, I STUDY DILIGENTLY EVERY DAY.

SPECIAL TACTICS ARE FOR GUYS WHO PUT OFF STUDYING 'TIL THE LAST MINUTE.

M

マックドバーガー

WELCOME TO MCBURGER'S!

HOW COULD I REFUSE?

WELL, THIS IS FINE. THAT PICTURE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE ...

For real?

This is so fun! All of us studying together at Micky B's! Yay!

SHU, YOU JERK! YOU DELIBERATELY STRUNG ME ALONG!

...IF ONODERA'S THE GIRL I MADE THE PROMISE WITH!!

PRETTY SOON, I'LL KNOW FOR SURE...

...I'D BE HANGING OUT AT MICKY B'S WITH ONO-DERA!

JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, I NEVER IMAGINED ...

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE NEITHER COLOR SEEMS QUITE RIGHT!

BLACK? BLOND?

WHAT COLOR WAS HER HAIR, ANYWAY?

MY MEMORY OF THE WHOLE THING IS SO DIM... I JUST DON'T KNOW!

WHICH ONE IS IT?

ARG...

AGO-NIZING ISN'T GETTING ME ANY-WHERE! DANG.

HUH?!

UM...

!!

HE CAN TUTOR YOU LIKE LAST TIME.

KOSAKI, WHY DON'T YOU SIT BY ICHIJO?

SO...

WHO'S SITTING WHERE?

NO, THAT'S OKAY.

ICHIJO PROBABLY WANTS TO SIT BY CHITOGE!

THEY'RE A COUPLE, AFTER ALL!

...OR IS IT JUST ME?

IS KOSAKI BEING KIND OF DISTANT...

WEIRD.

...

HUH?

...

OKAY, YOU TWO!

ENOUGH NON-VERBAL CONVER-SATION!

*Look that says, "Something's the matter."

*Look that says, "Nothing!"

*Look that says, "What's the matter?"

...

SO, THIS IS OUR SECOND STUDY GROUP TOGETHER. SEISHIRO, ARE YOU PRETTY GOOD IN SCHOOL?

PROBABLY ABOUT AVERAGE.

*Forced to sit across from Raku by Ruri.

GAH!

I'VE GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER AND FOCUS ON STUDY-ING!

ゴソ RUMMAGE

ゴソ RUMMAGE

NO, IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL.

WOW, TSUGUMI! YOU MUST BE SUPER SMART!

WOW! THAT'S A CRAZY HIGH LEVEL!

Japan-ese school-work is easy, huh?

Yes.

CLAUDE SAYS TO STUDY HARD ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO GET INTO ANY UNI-VERSITY.

So that's about my level...

Excuse me, Mistress.

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO HELP YOU.

ガタ... CLATTER

HUH ?!

HEY, RAKU ICHIJO!

DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T SOLVE A SIMPLE PROBLEM!

AND YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE YOUNG MISTRESS ?!

SHUT UP!

LEAVE ME ALONE, WOULD-JA?

...

ALRIGHT, LOOK.

WHEN YOU HAVE THIS KIND OF PROBLEM ...

LUB DUB

SHFF

WHAT'S UP?

SHE'S AWFULLY NICE TODAY...

WONDER WHAT'S COME OVER HER!

So then the next step...

OOO?!

WHY IS MY HEART RA-CING ?!

YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER, TSUGUMI.

I TOTALLY GET IT NOW.

THANK YOU.

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT?

ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME?!

UH, YEAH!

I'M LISTEN-ING!

WELL, GOOD.

THEN SEE IF YOU CAN DO THE REST ON YOUR OWN.

CLATTER ｶﾞﾀ..

I WILL. THANKS.

What did she help you with?

This prob-lem

SHOOP

ストン…

SMASH ドガ!!

KRASH ゴ

KRAK ガ!!

BAM バキ!!

BAM ドドド

THEY SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG.

YOU THINK SO?

!!!!

SO, KIRISAKI?

WOULDJA TAKE A CRACK AT THIS ENGLISH TEXT FOR US?

OH... SURE!

OH, RIGHT! YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, DON'T YOU, CHITOGE?

OF COURSE, WITH KIRISAKI'S HELP, IT'LL BE A BREEZE.

I KNOW WE HAFTA STUDY FOR FINALS...

BY THE WAY...

BUT WE ALSO HAVE ENGLISH HOMEWORK TONIGHT.

Here!

"I DON'T KNOW, ANNA! I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE!"

"WHO WAS THAT WOMAN?!"

"WAIT, GEORGE!"

?!

E"

TW-

7"/!!-ITCH

Ahem!

HERE GOES...

THEY'RE COUNTING ON ME!

THAT TEACHER!!

English Teacher

Chose Homework Text

"WHO DO YOU LOVE MORE... ME OR HER?"

What is this, a soap opera?!

"YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! HEAR ME OUT!"

"WHOSE HAIR IS THIS, THEN?"

"DON'T LIE TO ME!"

ooo?!

ONODERA REMINDS ME OF HOW I REMEMBER PENDANT-GIRL.

SOMEHOW...

PLUS, SHE SAID I REMIND HER OF THE BOY SHE REMEMBERS...

Yeah... I'm okay!

HA!

IT'S CRACKING ONODERA UP!

SHE'S SO CUTE!

IT'S NO USE THINKING ABOUT IT... BUT I CAN'T HELP IT!!

GAH!!

SHAKA

SHAKA

...BUT SHE KNEW THE PHRASE "ZAWZWE IN LOVE", AND SHE HAS A KEY...

"Please! I can explain!"

KIRISAKI, ON THE OTHER HAND, DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE GIRL I REMEMBER AT ALL...

"I've had it with you, George!"

ME?

WELL OBVIOUSLY, ONODE...

SO? WHICH ONE DO YOU PREFER, RAKU?

WHEN I FIND THAT PHOTO, I'LL KNOW!

I'VE GOT TO CALM DOWN.

I'LL KNOW WHO IT WAS!

DO YOU? I LIKE STRAW-BERRY TOO!

I really do!

HUH?! I.. UH...I PREFER STRAW-BERRY!

OH... WHICH DO YOU PREFER, ONODERA?

...VANILLA OR CHOCO-LATE MILK SHAKES?

I WAS ASKING WHETHER YOU PREFER...

NO...

"WHICH ONE DO YOU PREFER?"

THAT'S CRAZY!

"OBVIOUSLY, ONODE..."

NOBODY NOTICED... DID THEY?

I ALMOST DECLARED MY LOVE FOR ONODERA IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!!

YIKES!!

?

"I'M THE ONE YOU'RE DESTINED TO BE WITH!"

"THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, GEORGE!"

BLRFF!!

?!

What happened to George?

Into the story.....

Oops, sorry! I'll keep going!

IT SEEMS LIKE THE GIRL WAS PROBABLY ONODERA.

BUT... ALL THINGS CONSIDERED ...

I MEAN, I JUST CAN'T SEE IT BEING KIRISAKI!

KTUNK

OKAY. I HAVE TO STOP WORRYING ABOUT IT!

WHEN I FIND THE PICTURE, I'LL KNOW!

NOTHING.

That was freaky timing.

EW! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

THERE IT IS! THAT'S THE BOX DAD DESCRIBED!

LIKE THIS

!

SHFF

ガコ...

ULP
ゴ"ク…

…I'LL KNOW WHO THE PENDANT GIRL REALLY IS!

WHEN I SEE IT…

THE PICTURE FROM TEN YEARS AGO IS IN HERE!

KSH ゴト…

I'VE JUST GOT TO…

ズ"ズ"SHFF…

WHO IS THE PENDANT GIRL?.

ONODERA OR KIRISAKI?

WHO IS IT?

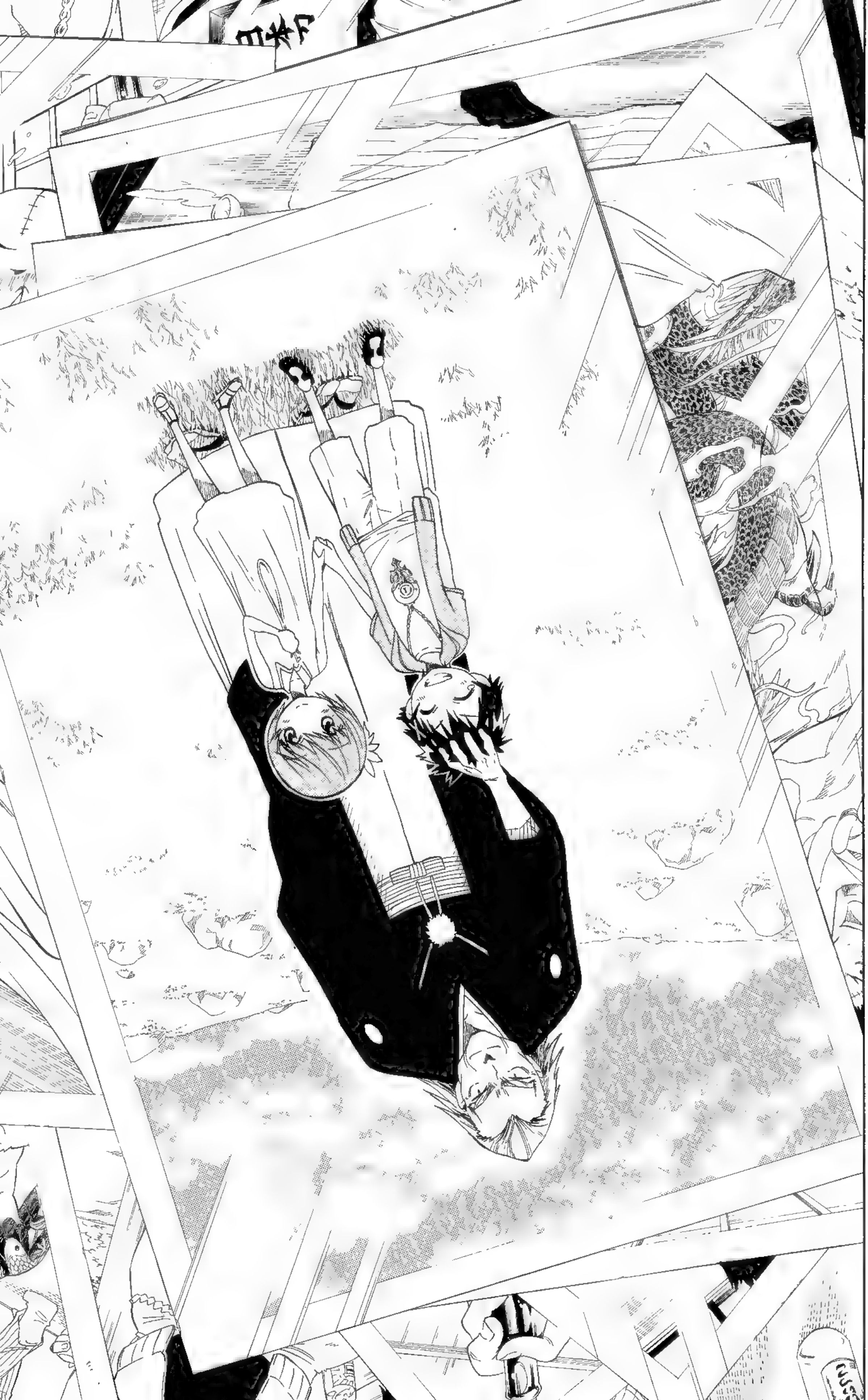
SHP ズ"…

…

WHAT THE…?

…LOOK AND SEE!

WHP



WHO'S ...

...THAT?

How come they can com-muni-cate without words?!
What? For real?
Don't lie. It's written all over your face!
Nothing!
What're you hiding? Spit it out!!

Chapter 32: Umbrella Buddies

WAIT A SEC.

WHO'S ...

...THIS?

I DON'T REMEMBER THIS GIRL AT ALL!!

THAT'S NOT ONODERA OR KIRISAKI!

DAD!!

THUMP
ドタ

THUMP
ドタ

DAD, WHERE ARE YOU?!

THIS IS THE GIRL...

...I MADE THE PROMISE WITH?

BUT SHE'S HOLDING...

...A KEY?

DOES THAT MEAN...

GAH!

YOUR DAD JUST LEFT.

OH, HEYA, YOUNG MAS-TER!

WHO'S THIS GIRL ??

WHAP

I FOUND THE PIC-TURE!

COME TO THINK OF IT...

HMM ...

BRRRMM
ゴオオオオオ

...THE GIRL IN THAT PICTURE WAS...

...NOW I'M MORE CONFUSED THAN EVER!

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I HAD THE ANSWER...

FOOEY!

Hooray!

MAYBE ONE OF THEM...

...MIGHT RECOGNIZE HER.

SO THE GIRL I MADE THE PROMISE WITH WASN'T ONODERA OR KIRISAKI?

WHAT'S THE DEAL?

Come up and get them when I call your number!

The photos from the school trip are ready!

BUT I DON'T REMEMBER HER AT ALL!

HEY, RAKU!

WHICH PICTURES DID YOU GET?

WHOA!

OH, UH...

HUH?

SHOULD I ASK?

BUT THEY BOTH STILL DON'T KNOW WE MET AS KIDS.

I GUESS I SHOULD TELL THEM...

IT'S...

...POUR-ING!

HHHH

SHOOT. THERE WAS A TV SHOW I WANTED TO SEE TODAY, TOO.

Hate missing shows.

NOPE.

KSHHH

HEY.

HUH?

KSHHH

NO UMBREL-LA?

...

OH, REALLY?

I'D RATHER GET SOAKED THAN SHARE YOUR UMBRELLA!

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

YOUR HOUSE IS ON THE WAY. I'LL WALK WITH YOU.

WANT TO SHARE MINE?

WHAT?

WHMP!

FWAP

Ack!

SEE YOU!

SPLISH

FINE!

ザアアア
KSHH

SHHH
ザアアア

…

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.

OWWWW! STEAMY!

HEY, CHECK OUT THE LOVE-BIRDS!

カアア?… BLUSH

SHUT UP!

IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN. ARE YOU STAYING DRY?

…

YES.

KSHHH
ザアアアア?…

!

KSHHH

ザアアア

I WASN'T LEER-ING!

GAH!

LOOK, I'M JUST DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE!

YOU SICKO!

WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT?

QUIT LEERING, PERV!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REACT TO THIS?

I DON'T GET IT..SHE'S DEFINITELY ACTING WEIRD LATELY!

GNRLL

WHO ARE YOU CALL-ING A GO-RILLA?

AUGH!!

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, GO-RILLA FACE!!

カチン!

SNAP

WHAT?! YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE FOR A BEAN SPROUT BRAIN!

I WASN'T LEERING! BESIDES, NOBODY ASKED YOU TO WALK SO CLOSE!

RRRRMMBBB

FLASH

UH, CHI-TOGE?

IT MUST BE REALLY CLOSE!

YIKES! THAT WAS A BIG ONE!

...!!

ザァァァ..
KSHAAA

YOU'RE AFRAID OF THUNDER AND LIGHTNING, TOO?

WHAT? HOW COME?

GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT OUT THE STORM HERE.

I DON'T WANT TO MISS MY TV SHOW ...

ANOTHER CHINK IN YOUR ARMOR, HUH?

ピカッ!!
FLASH

EEK!

I WON'T TELL.

IF YOU TELL ANYONE, I'LL KILL YOU!

SHUT UP!

TALK TO ME ABOUT SOME-THING!

IT'S LESS SCARY THAT WAY.

HERE WE GO AGAIN.

SO, HOW SHOULD WE PASS THE TIME?

ゴゴゴ

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT CAME FROM!!

WHAT THE HECK?!

BLRFF!

ZZZ...

HE MUST'VE...

SHU, YOU CREEP!

SNORT

LET ME EXPLAIN... SHU SNUCK THAT IN AS A JOKE!

NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

STARE

I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO GO AROUND WITH A PHOTO LIKE THIS.

HMPH!

WELL, DUH.

...SO WEIRD.

LUB DUB ドキ...

THIS IS...

And this one...and this one too!

HUH?

LOOK AT THIS ONE!

ISN'T THIS A GREAT SHOT OF EVERY-ONE?!

THAT'S TRUE.

IT'S BEEN ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER SINCE YOU GOT HERE!

OF COURSE, A LOT'S HAPPENED SINCE THEN.

No wonder I've made progress!

HEH HEH! I KNOW, RIGHT?

PRETTY GOOD PROG-RESS, HUH?

...AND NOW YOU'RE TOTALLY ONE OF THE GANG.

...IT SEEMS LIKE JUST THE OTHER DAY YOU WERE MAKING A FRIEND NOTEBOOK ...

YOU KNOW ...

...

BUT LATELY, ANY-WAY...

ササッ...

WHSH

OH YEAH?!

FOR ME AS WELL!!

...IS HAVING TO SQUANDER MY GLORIOUS YOUTH PRETENDING WE'RE DATING!

THE ONLY BUMMER ...

HUHR!

...OUR PRETEND RELATION-SHIP ISN'T SO BAD.

...IT KINDA SEEMS LIKE MAYBE...

LUB DUB ドキン..!

ULP !!

ドキン..

LUB DUB

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

ドキン..

LUB DUB

YOU..?

NOT!!

WELL, YOU KNOW... ...

I GUESS I CAN SORT OF SEE THAT...

ガニ ガニ ガニ

LOVE IN THE AFTER-NOON?

WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

HA HA HA! WELL, NEVER MIND THAT.

I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, SON. WE NEED TO TALK.

NO WAY!!

I ONLY ASKED THAT YOU PRETEND TO BE IN LOVE.

DON'T TELL ME IT'S TURNING INTO THE REAL THING?

DAD?!

AAAH!

A CERTAIN SOMEONE HAS SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED THAT SHE'S COMING TO SEE YOU...

??

It's not like that!

SORRY TO INTERRUPT SUCH A TENDER MOMENT...

A PROB-LEM?

WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS...

THERE'S SOME-THING I NEED TO ASK YOU ABOUT!

OH YEAH! THAT REMINDS ME, DAD...

HOLD ON, SON.

WE'LL GET TO THAT LATER. THIS IS URGENT.

I—

YOUR FIANCÉE!

A CERTAIN SOME-ONE?

WHO IS IT?

OH...

YOU KNOW...

YOURS.

WHOSE FIANCÉE?

YOUR FIANCÉE.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

FOR TEN YEARS...

...HOW I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY TO COME...

OH, MY BELOVED RAKU!!

Prized Possession

Come up and get them when I call your number!
The photos from the school trip are ready!
Ono-dera's secret pur-chase!
I wasn't!
What're you grinning about?
SHOOP
ｻｯ!

WELL, I ACTUALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT...

MY FIANCÉE ?!

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, DAD??

Chapter 33: Showdown

NOW THAT SHE'S OF MARRIAGE-ABLE AGE, HE'S SENDING HER HERE.

APPAR-ENTLY, HE TOOK THE AGREE-MENT SERI-OUSLY.

EVER SINCE, HE'S BEEN TELLING HIS DAUGHTER SHE'S BETROTHED TO YOU.

I WAS HAVING DRINKS WITH A FRIEND, A LONG TIME AGO...

...AND WE ENDED UP PROMISING THAT YOU TWO WOULD MARRY.

WELL, IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLI-CATED THAN THAT.

SEE, IF HE GETS MAD, THERE COULD BE TROU-BLE...

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D BETTER WORK THIS OUT WITH YOUR FRIEND?! THIS IS NEVER GONNA WORK!!

WHAT ?!

SHE'S ARRIVING TOMORROW. SO CAN YOU, UH, PLAY ALONG?

WAIT JUST A MIN-UTE, DAD!!

Ha ha ha!

SORRY... JUST DO YOUR BEST, OKAY?

WHAT ?!

What could be worse ?!

NO... IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, ACTUALLY.

IS THIS GUY A GANG-STER, LIKE MY DAD?

AN OLD FRIEND ?

YEAH. THIS COULD GET HAIRY.

WE ALREADY HAVE TO PRETEND WE'RE DATING!

WHAT DOES HE EXPECT ME TO DO?

DIIING

DOOONG

HE WANTS ME TO PLAY ALONG.

YES, YOU HAVE, SON!

I HAVE ?

BUT DAD! I'VE NEVER EVEN MET THIS GIRL!

AND THAT OTHER STUFF MY DAD SAID...

I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET MY BETROTHED TODAY. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CONCEN-TRATE?

THEN MAYBE SHE'S THE GIRL I MADE THE PROMISE WITH!

IF THAT'S REALLY TRUE...

WHAT ?!

THAT GIRL IN THE PICTURE WAS YOUR FIANCÉE!

THAT PICTURE YOU WERE DIGGING AROUND FOR THE OTHER DAY.

YOU KNOW !

?!

ALL RIGHT, CLASS! LISTEN UP!

WE HAVE A NEW STUDENT JOINING US TODAY!

WHISPER ザワ..!

...REMEMBERS OUR PROMISE?

I WONDER IF SHE....

I WONDER WHAT SHE'S LIKE...

YES MA'AM.

COME ON IN, TACHIBANA.

WHIS-PER ざわ

WHISPER ざわ

I GUESS SO. WE SURE GET A LOT OF NEW KIDS IN OUR CLASS!

I can't see!

ANOTHER NEW STUDENT ? HUH?

WHIS-PER ざわ

Who is it? A boy or a girl?

WHOAAA...

おおお…

シャー

SWSH

ラー…

PLEASED TO MEET YOU ALL.

MY NAME'S MARIKA TACHIBANA.

I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW YOU.

DUDE, OUR CLASS IS THE BEST!!

IS SHE A MODEL?

OUR CLASS GETS ALL THE BABES!!

SHE'S A TOTAL BABE!

HOLY MOLY!!

Calm down now.

わー YAMMER

わー YAMMER

わー YAMMER

YAMMER

ヒュー PHWEE

PHWOO ヒュー

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

Huh?

WAS IT LIKE THIS WHEN I JOINED THE CLASS?

Yawn!

Yay!

SHE'S REALLY BEAUTI-FUL!

WOW!

GRIN

!! P...

BLINK

OOPS!

CAUGHT STAR-ING!

WOW. SHE REALLY IS PRETTY.

AND SHE KINDA LOOKS FAMILIAR...

OH, RAKU DEAR-EST!!

HOW I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY!!

SKWEE

ちゅ〜〜〜っ!!

WHA...?!

ギュッ!!

SHOCK

^...?

HUH?!

WHOOOAAA!!

THE NEW GIRL'S HUG-GING ICHIJO?!

HOLY SMOKES!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

UM, TACHIBANA? DO YOU KNOW RAKU?

YES, I DO!

OH, DO EXCUSE ME, MY BELOVED RAKU!

HOW I'VE DREAMED OF THIS DAY!!

"Raku Dearest"?

WAIT A SEC!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING ??

...HE'S MY FIANCÉE !

GRIN

IN FACT...

コ"ッ!

FIANCÉE?!

FI...

HUH ?!

IS SHE REALLY YOUR FIANCÉE?

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, ICHIJO?!

AAAAAAAH!!

NUZZLE NUZZLE スリスリ

ACK! H-HOLD ON A SEC!!

NO FAIR!! YOU DIRTY DOG!!

COME TO THINK OF IT... SHE DOES LOOK LIKE THE GIRL IN THE PICTURE!

GRIN ニコッ!

...I DIDN'T THINK HE MEANT TO MY SCHOOL!!

WHEN DAD SAID SHE WAS COMING TODAY...

SO SHE'S MY BE-TROTHED?!

WAVE ﾌﾘﾌﾘ

WAVE ﾌﾘﾌﾘ

IS THERE GOING TO BE ANOTHER SHOW-DOWN?

DOES KIRISAKI HAVE A NEW RIVAL?!

YAP キャー

YAP キャー

WHAT'S GOING ON??

YAP キャー

TELL HER, MIS-TRESS!

AND GIVE YOUR TWO-TIMING SLIME OF A BOYFRIEND A PIECE OF YOUR MIND TOO!!

I'M GET-TING BLAMED FOR THIS?!

OH, RIGHT.

!

BOY-FRIEND ?

BOY-FRIEND !!

HE'S MY MIS-TRESS'S B-B-B...

GET YOUR PAWS OFF RAKU ICHIJO, VIXEN!

えぇわっ…！

WHISPER WHISPER

DARLING BOYFRIEND?

HA HA! THAT'S RIGHT!

SO, YOU SEE HOW RAKU IS ACTUALLY MY DARLING BOYFRIEND!

LUB DUB

ドキ

WHAT NOW, FIANCÉE?

KIRISAKI'S TAKING HER ON!!

わくAH!

わくーOH!

SO, I'M SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T...

SPARKLE キラリ～ン!!

...THAN THIS FEMALE GORILLA!

KA-SMAKK!

OH, RAKU DEAREST, I'M QUITE SURE I CAN MAKE YOU HAPPIER...

UH-OH! DON'T DO IT, CHITOGE!!

K-KRAK KRAK バキボキ…

GRRR ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T QUITE HEAR YOU!

GOOOO!!

I'D POINT THAT THING SOME-WHERE ELSE IF I WERE YOU...

THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.

OH, DEAR.

YOU DARE INSULT MY MISTRESS?!

YOU INSO-LENT WENCH!

KCHAK

ジャキン!!

FWAM

YIKES!! A SWAT TEAM?!

ガヤ YAMMER

AAAGH! WHAT'S GOING ON??

POLICE POLICE POLICE POLICE POLICE

DA-DA-DUM!!

...AND I FEAR HE'S A BIT OVERPRO-TECTIVE...

I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THE DISTUR-BANCE.

MY FATHER IS THE CHIEF OF POLICE, YOU SEE...

TROUBLE♥

NOT ANOTHER WAR!! AUGH! THIS IS TERRIBLE!

どりゃあ HYAAA

おお AAUGH

警察 VS やくざ POLICE VS. YAKUZA

ガシャ SCRATCH

ガシャ SCRATCH

SO THAT'S WHAT DAD MEANT...

CHIEF OF POLICE?!

"IF HE GETS MAD, THERE COULD BE TROUBLE..."

UH-OH...

SWOON

?!

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ENGAGED TO THIS GIRL?!

GREAT! THIS IS WAY WORSE THAN I EVER DREAMED!

Stand down, men!

Yes, miss.

Stand down, Honda.

ジャキン!! KA-CHANG

RAKU DEAREST, WON'T YOU BE SO KIND AS TO ESCORT ME TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE?

JUST THE TWO OF US...

ARE YOU REALLY SICK?

OH, PLEASE!

OH, DEAR! ALL THIS EXCITEMENT HAS MADE ME FEEL FAINT!

I'M AFRAID I HAVE A MOST FRAIL CONSTITU-TION...

THAT BRAZEN HUSSY!

GAH!

OKAY, OKAY, I'M COMING!

COME ALONG, RAKU DEAREST!

HEY... YOU SEEM FINE!

WED-DING?!

HOLD ON... TIME-OUT!!

WHY, GOODNESS ME! WE'RE ALL ALONE, RAKU DARLING!

SHALL WE SET A WEDDING DATE?

OH, THANK YOU, RAKU DEAREST! I FEEL BETTER ALREADY, THANKS TO YOU!

WELL, THAT'S GOOD.

Nurse

NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT THIS WHOLE ENGAGEMENT THING 'TIL YESTERDAY!

!

LOOK, I'M SORRY! I'M GOING TO BE TOTALLY STRAIGHT WITH YOU!

I MEAN, WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE WE'VE MET BEFORE!

I'M AFRAID I DON'T REMEM-BER YOU AT ALL.

I'M SORRY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY.

...

NO.

SHOOP

すい...

I...

I LOVE YOU, RAKU DEAR-EST!

THAT'S NORMAL!

WE MAY HAVE MET TEN YEARS AGO, BUT WE'RE BASICALLY TOTAL STRANGERS, RIGHT?

I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT STOKED ABOUT MARRYING SOMEONE YOUR PARENTS CHOSE FOR YOU.

AM I RIGHT?

YES.

...

ABSO-LUTELY.

...

YOU REMEM-BER ME... FROM TEN YEARS AGO?

I'VE LOVED YOU WITH ALL MY HEART FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS!

IT'S NOT JUST WHAT MY PARENTS WANT.

I REMEM-BER, RAKU DEAREST!

YES. OF COURSE!

...

PROM-ISE?

THEN...

ドクン LUB DUB

YOU REMEM-BER... OUR PROM-ISE?

AAAAH!!

SO PLEASE, MY BELOVED RAKU...

MARRY ME!!

IT'S REALLY HER!

!!

がばっ!! LUNGE

MIS-TRESS? WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

ビク!!

TWITCH

CAN'T HEAR MUCH.

HMM...

UM, JUST FEELING A LITTLE UNDER THE WEATH-ER... HA HA!

WHY'RE YOU HERE?

KOSAKI AND RURI...

CHI-TOGE AND TSUGUMI... WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

OH!

I... I FOL-LOWED YOU HERE!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

TSU-GUMI!

THEN WHY'D YOU ASK, "WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?"

HEY!!

バン!!

FWAM-

WHAT DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

TEE-HEE-HEE! IS THIS BETTER?

WAIT! D-DON'T TOUCH ME THERE!!

バタン..

ドタン..

BOMP

KRASH

GO AHEAD RAKU DARLING! TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES!!

WHOA! HOLD ON A SEC...

ヒカ!!

KRASH

ER...

Oh, baby!

YOU ANIMAL!

I WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY AND SHE...

IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!

I CAN EX-PLAIN !!

PLEASE... YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR ME OUT!!

O-ONO-DERA!!

I swear, I didn't do anything!

TWITCH

MUTTER

Extremely potent curse!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY??

HUH?!

DROP DEAD, SLIME-BAG.

SLIME-BAG?!

ゴゴゴゴ

RRRMBBB

YOU PERVERTED BEAN SPROUT SCUM DOG...

FLINCH

ONO-DERA?!

ス...

SHOOF

AIEEE!!

KA-FWAMM

DIE!!

...

HE'S AS WONDER-FUL AS EVER.

SPLISH ジャー

I KNEW HE WOULD BE.

HOW'D IT GO WITH THE ICHIJO BOY?

SO?

ジャ

SHLLRP

パシャ…

SPLISH

AND I UNDERSTAND HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND?

PLIP ポニッ!

OR THE PROMISE …

BUT…

HE DIDN'T REMEMBER YOU, DID HE, MISS?

…I'M CONFIDENT HE'LL CHOOSE ME.

WHEN MY BELOVED RAKU REALIZES WHAT KIND OF WOMAN HE DESERVES…

NONE OF THAT MATTERS.

SHFF

10+…

...WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US...

チャラ…
KCHING

IF HE DOESN'T REMEM-BER...

I'LL JUST HAVE TO JOG HIS MEMORY.

...HIS DESTINY.

TING
4×11…

I'M...

Where does she learn this stuff?
Dang. I don't know what she's saying, but it doesn't sound friendly.
Mutter
Mutter
Mutter
Mutter
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

コ DIIIING

DOOOONG ≠

Chapter 34: Pursuit

SO WHY DID I GET SO ANNOYED?

COME TO THINK OF IT...

I KNOW HE DOESN'T HAVE THE NERVE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

THAT MORONIC BEAN SPROUT !!

DROOLING LIKE A TOTAL MORON OVER THIS FIANCÉE NON-SENSE...

WHEN I FOUND THAT PHOTO...

...I KNEW RIGHT AWAY IT WASN'T HIS DOING.

I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE CLOBBERED HIM.

I FEEL KINDA BAD ABOUT IT NOW.

コト… KTUNK

ガラッ SHFF

MORN-ING...

GUESS I SHOULD SAY I'M SORRY...

AUGH!! QUIT HUGGING ME, ALRIGHT?!

OH, RAKU DEAR-EST!

GOOD MORNING, MY LOVE!!

SKWEE

ぎゅむ

ぎゅ?!!

Get offa me!!

WHY AM I HIDING?

HUH?

H-, !

SHOOP

!!

What a dream-boat!

YOU'RE SO POPULAR, RAKU DEAREST !!

DID YOU HEAR A WORD I SAID?

Die, Ichijo!!

You dog! It's not fair!!

...AND THE GUYS GANG UP AND CLOBBER ME IN DODGE BALL!

ALL THE GIRLS ARE AVOIDING ME AND WHISPER-ING BEHIND MY BACK...

Y'KNOW, THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING IS REALLY CAUSING PROBLEMS.

OH!!

I CAN'T DO THAT!!

I TOLD YOU... I HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND! REMEMBER?!

OH DEAR... IS THAT A NO?

SHALL WE GO ON A DATE TOMORROW?

It's the weekend...

WHAT?!

A DATE?!

...

I JUST WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.

WE KEPT GETTING INTER-RUPTED YESTERDAY ...

AAAAH!! うおおおお

WHAT IF HE DECIDES TO RAID MY HOME WITH HIS SWAT TEAM?

KA-BOOM!!

MY POOR FATHER WILL BE TERRIBLY UPSET WHEN HE FINDS OUT...

BUT IF YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND, I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GIVE UP.

RAKU DEAREST, I'VE WAITED ALL THESE YEARS TO BE WITH YOU...

!!

ﾌﾟﾙ ﾌﾟﾙ TWITCH TWITCH

TWITCH ﾌﾟﾙ...

REALLY?

I'M SO THRILLED!

Boo!

Ichijo, you dirty pig!

Boo!

Boo!

SURE, I'D LOVE TO GO ON A DATE WITH YOU.

OKAY... OKAY.

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

A DATE?!

SHE WASN'T VERY SPECIFIC ABOUT WHERE TO MEET.

WON-DER WHY SHE SAID IT'LL BE OBVI-OUS?

I WONDER IF I SHOULD'VE TOLD KIRISAKI ABOUT THIS...

IT DOESN'T MATTER ... ... DOES IT?

THEN AGAIN, NOW I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO ASK HER ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO...

SHEESH! HOW DID I GET MYSELF INTO THIS MESS?

WEE-OOO
WEE-OOO

YIKES! WHAT THE HEY?!

POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POL

GOOD MORNING, BELOVED!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!!

WAS THERE A CRIME OR SOME-THING?

WHY'RE ALL THESE COP CARS HERE?

HUB-BUB ガヤ

HUB-BUB ガヤ

OH! RAKU DEAREST!

PHWEET PHWEET PHWEET

GREAT. I'M REALLY IN OVER MY HEAD WITH THIS ONE!

Move it along, men!

HAVE A GOOD DAY, MISS!

YOU CAN STAND DOWN NOW, MEN.

YES. THEY'RE MY ENTOURAGE.

DON'T TELL ME THESE ARE...

HEY.

IS THIS FOR REAL?!

AND SHE LIKES ME?!

SHE'S REALLY DEVASTATINGLY PRETTY.

?

STILL...

I CAN'T HELP NOTICING...

DANG... I'M STARTING TO GET SELF-CONSCIOUS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!

COME TO THINK OF IT, YESTERDAY WAS THE FIRST TIME A GIRL SAID SHE LIKED ME.

In a kinda creepy way, but still!

THE WAY SHE TALKS IS PRETTY UNIQUE. I WOULD'VE REMEMBERED THAT!

BUT FOR SOME REASON, I STILL DON'T THINK SHE'S THE ONE.

"Raku Dearest"? What's that all about?!

IS IT BECAUSE OF OUR PROMISE?

WE MET TEN YEARS AGO!!

BUT... WHY DOES SHE LIKE ME SO MUCH?

I'M SORRY.

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT. TAKE YOUR TIME!

SHALL WE MOSEY ALONG?

BUT HONESTLY, I JUST DON'T REMEMBER YOU.

NO... I FEEL BAD ABOUT IT...

DO YOU SO... REMEMBER ME YET?

HUH?

カサッ RUSTLE

Hmm...

JSHOP

OF COURSE. YOU'RE BEING WAY TOO PASSIVE ABOUT THIS.

ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT TAILING THEM?

キ゛ッ! SNAP

UH... THE SUBJECT?

UM... LOOKS LIKE THEY MET UP AT THE DESIG-NATED PLACE.

CURRENT LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT, KOSAKI?

ストア

-28-9
-0086

ゴソ SNEAK SNEAK

Are you trying to stand out?!

WE WOULD'VE BEEN LESS OBVIOUS WITHOUT THEM!

AND WE WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF WEARING DIS-GUISES...

THEY'RE ENGAGED, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, THIS COULD BE REALLY SERIOUS!

THE KEY TO A GOOD DISGUISE IS TO LOOK COMPLETELY UNLIKE ONE'S NORMAL APPEARANCE AND TO BLEND INTO ONE'S SURROUND-INGS!

IN MY CASE...

UNDERCOVER WORK IS A SPECIALIZATION OF MY TRADE!

Family Shop

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DATING MY MISTRESS! HOW DARE HE?!

RAKU ICHIJO'S ON A DATE WITH HIS FIANCÉE?

UNLESS I GET VERY CLOSE TO THEM, HE'LL NEVER RECOGNIZE ME.

GOOD THING I STUDIED THAT FASHION MAG I BOUGHT YESTER-DAY.

Who's that?

A model?

Hee hee hee

WHISPER

WHISPER

HE'LL NEVER DREAM THIS IS ME!

TA-DAA!

WHISPER

WHISPER

EXCUSE ME, MISS...

OOPS...

WHERE DID HE GO?

SNEAK SNEAK

I'M DOING THIS FOR HER...NOT BECAUSE I CARE!

I'LL MONITOR HIS ACTIVITIES AND REPORT BACK TO MY MISTRESS!

24h

BLRFF!!

CAN YOU GIVE ME DIRECTIONS?

GREAT! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

OH, YES... I BELIEVE I SAW THE SIGN ON A BUILDING OVER THAT WAY.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THIS RESTAU-RANT...

OH NO! HE'S BOUND TO RECOGNIZE ME THIS CLOSE UP!

AUGH! RAKU ICHIJO?!

HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME.

Yes, she looked like a celebrity! Now, no more checking out other girls on our date!

Wow, she was really pret-ty!

BLAH

BLAH

MY DISGUISE IS PURE GENIUS. HE'LL NEVER RECOG-NIZE ME!

I'D BETTER WATCH HIM AND MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T SCREW UP OUR FALSE RELATION-SHIP!

LOOK AT HIM DROOLING ALL OVER HIMSELF!

THAT IDIOT BEAN SPROUT !

THAT DUNDERHEAD! WOULD IT KILL HIM TO NOTICE ME A LITTLE BIT?!

ゴソ...

STOMP

ダン

STOMP

That foxy babe looks mad...

ダン

STOMP

CHITOGE

ざわ MURMUR

ヒソ WHISPER WHISPER ヒソ

ざわ MURMUR MURMUR ざわ

ヒソ WHISPER ヒソ

WHISPER ヒソ

HEY THERE, PUNK!

Hee hee hee...

YES... THIS IS THE PERFECT DISGUISE!

HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

KA-ZOOM

MIND IF WE ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?

HUFF... HUFF... THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!

GUESS I WENT A LITTLE OVER-BOARD ON THE COSTUME!

SNEAK

SNEAK

SNEAK

SNEAK

OH, RAKU DEAR-EST!

I'M A BIT HUNGRY! SHALL WE PARTAKE OF SOME LIGHT REFRESH-MENTS?

SKWEE

!!

Tee-hee...

WELL, YEAH, BUT...

THIS IS A *DATE*, AFTER ALL!

OH, COME NOW... DON'T BE LIKE THAT!

HEY! QUIT GRABBING ME, OKAY?

GRRRRR

GRRRRR

!!!

RRRRRMMBBB

WHY DO I FEEL LIKE SOME-ONE'S GIVING ME THE EVIL EYE?

*BEAN SPROUT-SCUM!!

Tee-hee!!

MY FATHER HIGHLY RECOM-MENDS THIS RESTAU-RANT.

I DO HOPE YOU LIKE IT!

THIS PLACE LOOKS PRICEY...

UH... YEAH?

OH, RAKU DEAR-EST...

THERE'S NO PRICES ON THE MENU!

I HOPE I BROUGHT ENOUGH DOUGH...

11 CH-

OPEN WIDE! ♡

-OMP

ｸｯ

What on earth...?

Yikes! Two diners dropped their glasses at once!

Are you all right, Miss?

HEH HEH

?

ガシャーン!

KA-KRASH

AW... WHAT'S WRONG? WE'RE ENGAGED, REMEMBER?

YEAH, WELL, ABOUT THAT FIANCÉE THING...

You're so cute when you're bashful!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

HEY!

...WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH SUCH A COARSE, UNCOUTH WOMAN!

I THINK YOU'LL FIND ME FAR MORE SUITABLE, RAKU DEAREST!

I REALLY DON'T UNDER-STAND...

NO, NOT REALLY...

ARE YOU STILL WORRY-ING ABOUT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

HUH?

...

CHING カチャ...

I DON'T THINK SO.

ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW HER...

I THINK THE TWO OF YOU COULD BE GOOD FRIENDS.

SHE HAS SOME GOOD QUALITIES.

THEY'RE JUST REALLY, REALLY, ***REALLY*** HARD TO SEE AT FIRST.

NOW, DON'T BE LIKE THAT.

I'M AFRAID...

NOW... RAKU DEAR-EST...

I don't get it!

EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE LONG HAIR?

カチャ… KLINK

...I HAVE AN AVERSION TO WOMEN WITH LONG HAIR.

HOLD UP... WHERE ARE WE GOING?!

RIGHT THIS WAY, RAKU DEAREST!

WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAD A LITTLE TALK *IN PRIVATE.*

I blew it!

HOW DID THEY SLIP AWAY FROM ME?!

DRAT!!

HUH? OH!

WE'VE LOST THEM!

KOSAKI!

This ice cream was too good!

HMM.

I'M AFRAID ONE OF DADDY'S MEN HAD THE GALL TO CONTINUE SURVEILLING OUR DATE...

Lie

TEE-HEE-HEE! I DO APOLOGIZE, RAKU DEAR-EST!

OH!! FOR REAL?! I totally didn't notice!

SHEESH! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY'D YOU DRAG ME OUT HERE SO FAST?

WHAT'RE THEY TALKING ABOUT NOW?

WHY DID SHE RUN OFF WITH HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN?

THAT WAS CLOSE! I NEARLY LOST THEM!

HUH?

OH... UH...

WAS THERE SOME-THING YOU WANTED TO ASK ME?

NOW, WHAT SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT?

SHP スッ…

…ABOUT THIS PICTURE.

I WANTED TO ASK YOU...

ゴソ…

RUMMAGE

!

NO! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!

I'M SO MOVED!

YOU DO REMEMBER ME AFTER ALL!

SO THAT'S YOU IN THE PICTURE?

YOU KEPT THIS PHOTO OF US ALL THESE YEARS?

WHY, LOOK AT THIS!

YES!

SHOOP

IF I CAN JUST GET CLOSER...

WHAT'S ALL THE YELLING ABOUT?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

?!

OR WAS IT...

ARE YOU THE GIRL I MADE THE PROMISE WITH?

I'M SORRY...

I'VE WONDERED FOR YEARS WHO SHE COULD HAVE BEEN.

...BUT ALL I REMEMBER IS MAKING A PROMISE WITH A GIRL TEN YEARS AGO.

...YOU MADE TEN YEARS AGO.

I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PROMISE...

YOU'RE RIGHT. ...

I KNOW THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS, RAKU DEAREST.

HOW DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT THAT PROMISE?

WHAT DID SHE SAY?

KA

KLINK

!!

BUT FIRST ...

I'M HAPPY TO SHARE THAT INFORMATION WITH YOU.

...WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND.

I WANT YOU TO BREAK UP...

NIKO!
GRIN

WHAT?

I'm busy!

Naw, baby! Hang out with me!

Hey, baby! Wanna hang out?

Ruri, what about following Ichijo??

Kosaki, let's order some of that next!

MEAN-WHILE...

Volume 4: Making Sure (END)

TAK TAK TAK

ONE MOMENT...

COMING!

DING DONG

KCHAK

WELCOME HOME, DARLING!

Bonus Comic: Newlyweds

Poor thing!

HARD DAY AT WORK?

YEAH... BEING A CIVIL SERVANT IS HARD WORK!

AND YOUR BATH'S READY, TOO. WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE FIRST?

YOUR DINNER'S READY!

I GUESS I'LL HAVE DINNER FIRST.

TEE-HEE!

ANYTHING FOR YOU, DARLING!

YOUR COOKING GETS BETTER AND BETTER!

THIS IS DELI-CIOUS!

I did my best!

WOW!

YOU REALLY WENT ALL OUT TONIGHT!

WELL, OUR ANNI-VERSARY'S ONLY ONCE A YEAR!

HE STILL HASN'T TAKEN TO YOU, I GUESS.

I wonder why?

OH, NO! ARE YOU OKAY?

ARGH! THAT LITTLE MON-STER!

ガブッ!!

CHOMP

OUCH!

HEY, TOGECHI! I'M HOME!

DIDJA HAVE A GOOD DAY?

OH!

SHALL WE TAKE A BATH TOGETHER?

AFTER DINNER... IF YOU'D LIKE...

DAR-LING?

もじ... BLUSH

YES?

ピヨ
TWEET

チュン
CHIRP

チュン
CHIRP

ワオォ…!!
BOO-HOO!!!

…TO HAVE THE REST OF THAT DREAM!! (WAAH!!)

HUH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, YOUNG MASTER?!

スクッ
TMP

I WOULD DO ANY-THING...

ガラ
SHP!!

チュン
CHIRP

チュン…
CHIRP…

プル
SHAKKA

プル
SHAKKA

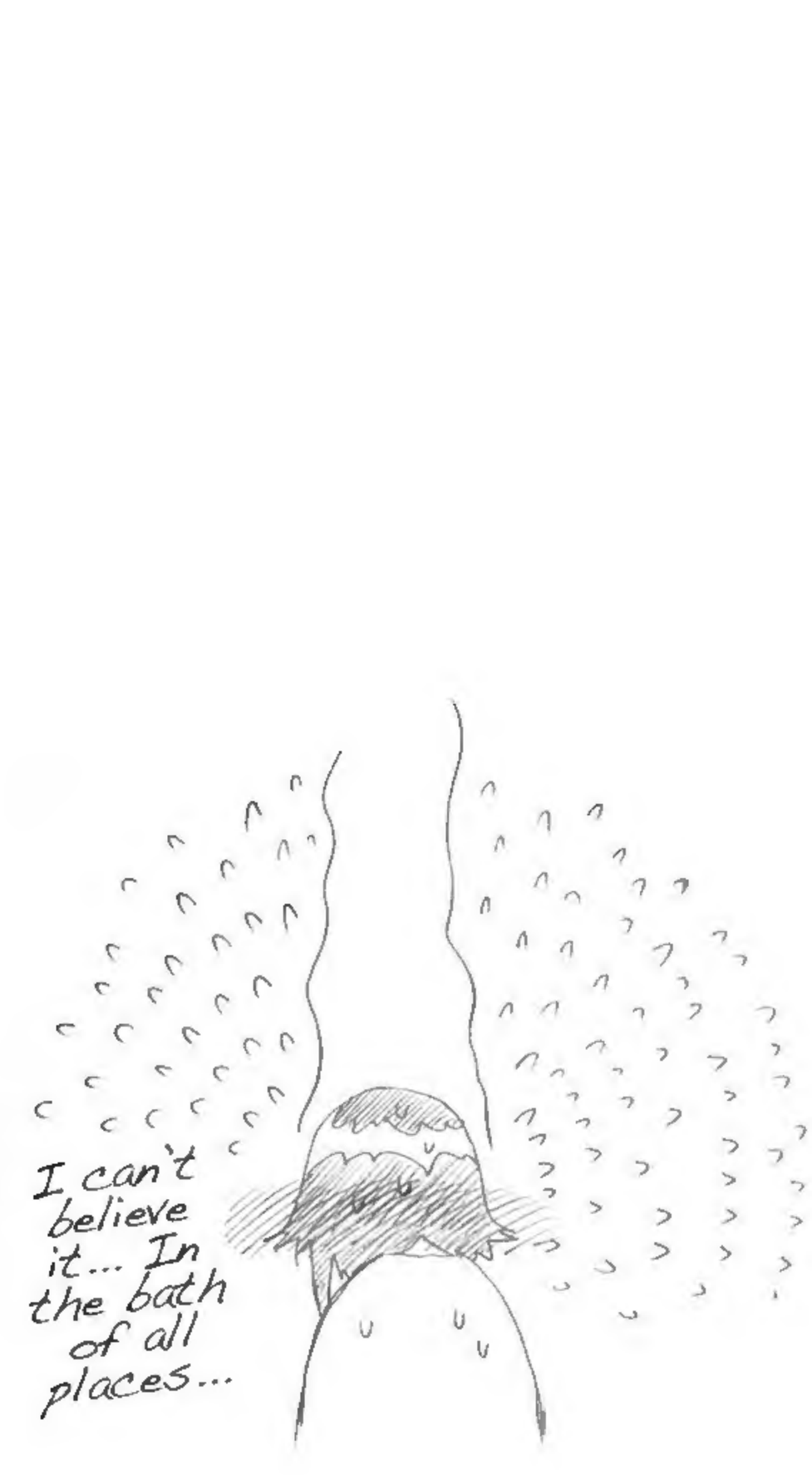
ONODERA'S DREAM WENT JUST A BIT FURTHER THAN RAKU'S...

BLUSH
カァアァァァァ…

LUB DUB
ギュゥ…!

GOOD GRIEF!
I'M SHOCKED AT MY-SELF!!

Bonus Comic: Newlyweds (END)


I can't believe it... In the bath of all places...